Daily Report

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CONTENTS

NOTICE TO READERS: An * indicates material not disseminated in electronic form.

NOTICE TO READERS CONCERNING ENVIRONMENTAL SUMMIT: Reportage on the UN Conference on Environment and Development in Rio de Janeiro will be published in special Latin America DAILY REPORT supplements.

FRONT PAGE

INTER-AMERICAN AFFAIRS

Further on Presidential Summit Events *[Managua Radio]* 2
Menem Holds News Conference *[Managua Radio]* 2
Comments on Halt of U.S. Aid *[Buenos Aires TELAM]* 5
Chamorro, Calderon on Trade *[Managua BARRICADA 4 Jun]* 6
'Managua Declaration' Issued *[Panama City ACAN]* 7
Callejas Holds News Conference *[Managua Radio]* 10
Chamorro Speaks at Closing Session *[Managua Radio]* 12
Panama's Endara Speaks *[Managua Radio]* 13
Serrano Holds News Conference *[Managua Radio]* 14
ROC Minister Meets Central American Presidents *[Taipei CNA]* 17

CARIBBEAN

Cuba

Elections to Assembly Scheduled for November *[Madrid Radio]* 18
Part III of Interview With Fidel Castro *[Managua EL NUEVO DIARIO 4 Jun]* 18
Escalona Convenes ANPP Session for 10 Jul *[Havana Radio]* 19
Commentary on ANPP To Modify Constitution *[Havana Radio]* 19
Bush Supports Bill on Tightening Embargo *[Havana Radio]* 20
U.S. Contradictory Stance on Ecology Noted *[Havana Radio]* 20
Suspension of U.S. Aid to Nicaragua Viewed *[Havana Radio]* 21
Havana Radio, TV Reports on Events in Haiti 22
Troops To Stifle 'Protests' *[Havana Radio]* 22
Deputies To Meet 9 Jun *[Havana Radio]* 22
U.S. Plan To Send Troops *[Havana Radio]* 22
'Prominent' Priest Arrested *[Havana TV]* 22

Haiti

Further on Bazin Appointment as Prime Minister 22
Bazin Outlines Policies *[Port-au-Prince Radio]* 22
Deputy Criticizes Choice *[Port-au-Prince Radio]* 23
Appointment 'An Insult' *[Port-au-Prince Radio]* 23
Reconstruction Movement Backs Washington Accord *[Port-au-Prince Radio]* 24
Conacom Not To Support Consensus Government *[Port-au-Prince Radio]* 24
'National Consensus' Called Political Maneuvering *[Port-au-Prince Radio]* 24
Human Rights Group Protests Repatriation Decision *[Port-au-Prince Radio]* 24
Students Demonstrate To Seek Aristide Return *[Port-au-Prince Radio]* 24
Military, Armed Civilians Search Deputies' Homes *[Port-au-Prince Radio]* 25

Jamaica

Bazin Appointment Deemed 'Quite Unacceptable' *[CANA]* 25

CENTRAL AMERICA

Guatemala

Serrano Menem Sign Joint Communique 3 Jun *[SIGLO VEINTIUNO 4 Jun]* 26

Nicaragua

Lacayo Urges Groups To Push For U.S. Aid *[Managua Radio]* 26
Deputies To Send Mission to Washington on Aid *[BARRICADA 4 Jun]* 26
H. Ortega Letter to Chamorro on Summons *[Managua TV]* 27

Panama

Upcoming 11 Jun Bush Visit Sparks Protests 27
Vice President Cited *[Panama City Radio]* 27
Vicitms Group Plans Protest *[LA ESTRELLA DE PANAMA 4 Jun]* 27
Bush's Arrest Demanded *[LA PRENSA 6 Jun]* 27
'Peaceful' Demonstrations Permitted *[EL PANAMA AMERICA 6 Jun]* 28
Chorrillo To Demonstrate *[LA PRENSA 7 Jun]* 28
Columnist Cited *[CRITICA LIBRE 7 Jun]* 28

SOUTH AMERICA

Argentina

* UCR Leaders Criticize Menem's Program *[LA PRENSA 25 Apr]* 30
* Administration Agrees To Modify Wage Policy *[LA PRENSA 7 May]* 30

Brazil

Debt Renegotiation Counterproposal Presented *[Brasilia Radio]* 31
President Approves Anticorruption Law *[Brasilia Radio]* 31
Debt Conversion Plan for Environment Formalized *[Brasilia Radio]* 31
CPI Questions Pedro Collor About PC Farias *[Rio de Janeiro TV]* 31

Chile

Purchase of A-37's From U. S. Announced *[Santiago Radio]* 32
Government Unwilling To Halt Development *[Santiago Radio]* 32
Shining Path Presence in North Said 'Possible' *[Santiago Radio]* 32

Colombia

'Huge Terrorist Plan' Uncovered in Medellin *[Santa Fe de Bogota TV]* 33
Patriotic Union Officials Killed in Meta *[Santa Fe de Bogota TV]* 33
UP To Sue Government *[Santa Fe de Bogota TV]* 33
Army Commander Comments *[Santa Fe de Bogota TV]* 34
Protection for Embassy in Peru Requested *[Santa Fe de Bogota TV]* 34
Rebels Destroy Telecommunications in Medellin *[Santa Fe de Bogota Radio]* 34
Bomb Explosions in Banks Reported *[Santa Fe de Bogota TV]* 35

Peru

Truck Bomb Destroys Lima Television Station *[Lima Radio]* 35
Fujimori Denounces Attack, Announces Measures *[AFP]* 35
Commander: No Curfew *[Lima Radio]* 35
Fujimori Sums Up Steps to Counter Terrorism *[Lima Radio]* 36
Vows Continued Fight *[Lima TV]* 36
Fujimori Says No Regrets About 'Palace Coup' *[AFP]* 36
Fujimori To Consult With OAS on Election Date *[Lima Radio]* 37

Government Reinstates Judiciary Branch Officials *[Lima Radio]* 37
Association Head Comments *[Lima Radio]* 37
Vargas Llosa on Call For Constituent Congress *[Lima Radio]* 38
Parties Demand Political Talks Before Election *[Lima TV]* 38
Government Seizing Clandestine Radio Stations *[Lima TV]* 38
Ammunition, Weapons Seized in Alto Huallaga *[EL COMERCIO 28 May]* 38
Government Issues Agriculture Emergency Decree *[EL PERUANO 26 May]* 39
Funds for Agricultural Reactivation Released *[EL PERUANO 27 May]* 39
Minister Requests Special Treatment Over Tax *[EL PERUANO 28 May]* 39
Report on Strategic Companies' Privatization *[EXPRESO 28 May]* 39
Requests for Postponing Privatizations Viewed *[LA REPUBLICA 28 May]* 41

Venezuela

Defense Minister Blames Politicians for Crisis *[Madrid EFE]* 41
Valencia Reported Calm Following Student Riots *[Caracas TV]* 41
Caracas Governor Comments on Student Unrest *[Caracas TV]* 42
Station Commentary Calls For End to Violence *[Caracas TV]* 42
DISIP Claims Civilians Involved in Coup *[Madrid EFE]* 42
Amir of Kuwait Talks With Perez in Caracas *[Kuwait KUNA]* 43
Leaving for Caracas *[Kuwait KUNA]* 43
* Caldera on CAP, Military, Colombian Relations *[EL NACIONAL 24 Apr]* 43

Panama

LA ESTRELLA DE PANAMA reports that Isabel Corro, president of the Committee of Relatives of the 20 December 1989 Victims has warned "the visit to Panama by President George Bush will provoke protests and will revive the controversy over the number of civilian and military casualties caused by the U.S. military intervention." She said, "'We cannot understand how a murderer can come to Panama.'" LA PRENSA reports further that Corro has "filed a suit against U.S. President George Bush and demanded that he be arrested as soon as he arrives in Panama on 11 June." EL PANAMA AMERICA reports that Menalco Solis, the executive secretary of the Council for Public Security and National Defense, has "affirmed that the government will allow protest demonstrations during U.S. President George Bush's visit, as long as they are peaceful" and "all available security forces will be deployed to guarantee the President's safety."

Inter-American

Managua radio carries live a news conference by Argentine President Menem in which he states Latin America must advance from "subregional integration processes to an overall integration." On the topic of Argentina's "belligerent attitude" towards Cuba and Peru, Menem states, "Argentina will strictly and steadfastly maintain its attitude concerning countries where democracy and liberty are not respected." Regarding U.S. aid to Nicaragua being suspended, Menem states, "I think the U.S. senator's position on this issue is untimely, and we will see what the Republic of Argentina can do so the U.S. Senate or Congress does not obstruct this aid to the Republic of Nicaragua." Menem later adds, "I will address the U.S. Government and especially the U.S. President, through the appropriate channels, to ensure that this problem will have the most positive and favorable outcome for Nicaragua."

ACAN carries the text of the "Managua Declaration," issued by the presidents of Costa Rica, El Salvador, Guatemala, Honduras, Nicaragua, and Panama on 5 June, at the conclusion of the 12th Central American Presidential Summit.

Managua radio carries live the speech given by President Chamorro at the closing session of the presidential summit. Chamorro mentions the Declaration of Managua which "shows a new phase in Central America's life." The summit she says, emphasized "the firm pledge to perfect democracy, strengthen the rule of the law, and sponsor respect for human rights." Also discussed was "an essential principle—the peaceful solution of differences between our states. We talked about a new regional security model and new concept of international cooperation toward Central America." Concerning U.S. aid, Chamorro thanks nations for their "concern" and says, "We have found a united and solitary Central America to fight against the dangers derived from a delay in the disbursements destined to strengthen our economic and social process."

Managua radio carries live Panamanian President Endara's speech to the presidential summit in which he reasserts "Panama's wish to join the region in facing the challenges the future may present" and its "willingness" to make integration a "reality." Endara announced that Panama would host the next Central American president's summit in December.

Cuba

Madrid radio reports that Council of Ministers Vice President Jose Ramon Fernandez announced in a news conference in Madrid that in November and for the first time, "the delegates at the provincial level and the national deputies who form the National Assembly...will be elected by the direct vote of each citizen."

Further on Presidential Summit Events

PA0606143092

[Editorial Report] Managua Radio Nicaragua Network in Spanish at 0104 GMT on 4 June broadcasts a 36-minute live relay of statements by Argentine President Carlos Menem and Nicaraguan President Violeta Chamorro after the signing ceremony of a joint declaration making Argentina a partner in the Central American Bank of Economic Integration, BCIE.

At 0104 GMT, the Argentine President begins his 11-minute statement by thanking the Central American countries for inviting him to the 12th Central American Presidential Summit. Menem says: "The Republic of Argentina wants to cooperate with Central America by helping the region, to the best of our ability, to allow each country to develop fully. To implement the aid, Argentina, together with the OAS, has begun a program called Argentine Fund for Horizontal Cooperation, which has been in effect since 1 March 1992."

At 0113 GMT, Menem adds: "To have one united Latin America, the current subregional systems must merge into one integrated system. For that reason, Argentina has decided to ratify its determination to participate as an extraregional partner of the BCIE. This is Argentina's concrete contribution to an expanded integration. It will allow us to promote several economic actions and interactions, which we hope will result in a significant increase in economic relations between Argentina and the BCIE countries. At 0115 GMT, the Argentine president concludes his statement.

Nicaraguan President Violeta Chamorro immediately follows at 0116 GMT, expressing her satisfaction with President Menem's visit and his contribution to regional development.

At 0122 GMT, Chamorro states: "The time has come to review our efforts and reflect on our most important commitments. That is why, together with Argentine President Carlos Saul Menem and Belizean Prime Minister George Price, we will make a stronger and more ordered effort to implement the Central American integration process at this 12th Central American Presidential Summit." President Chamorro ends her statement at 0124 GMT.

The station continues its relay with statements by the Costa Rican and Salvadoran foreign ministers on the importance of the agreements signed with Argentina and the tasks carried out during the first day of the 12th Central American Presidential Summit.

At 0130 GMT the station broadcasts the signing ceremony of an ecology agreement between the Central American Environment and Development Commission, represented by Salvadoran Agriculture Minister Antonio Cabales, and the U.S. National Air and Space Administration, represented by (Myriam Baltok). The ceremony ends at 0139 GMT.

Menem Holds News Conference

PA0506172892 Managua Radio Nicaragua Network in Spanish 2251 GMT 4 Jun 92

[News conference by Argentine President Carlos Saul Menem at the Camino Real Hotel in Managua with unidentified moderator and foreign and domestic reporters—live]

[Text] [Moderator] Argentine President Carlos Saul Menem has arrived. We will now begin the news conference. Danilo Zeron of Radio Mundial in Managua.

[Zeron] Mr. President, we would like to know what type of negotiations Nicaragua is carrying out concerning its foreign debt. Referring to your participation in the presidential summit, what topics were discussed with you?

[Menem] When the president of Nicaragua visited Argentina, we discussed the topic, and we approved an extension so the payment of Nicaragua's debt with Argentina would not become a burden for Nicaragua. There is no problem on this. Regarding my participation in this series of talks, it is essentially aimed at reasserting what will be decided in the Central American presidential summit. A lot of work is being carried out on an integration process, just as we are working on an integration process between Brazil, Uruguay, Paraguay, and Argentina in the southern part of the Latin American continent. We also have the Andean Pact. It is essential to advance from these subregional integration processes to an overall integration of Latin America.

Why not integrate all of the American continent in the not-too-distant future. We must remember there is a proposal to create a free trade zone from Alaska to Tierra del Fuego. Without detriment to those integration processes, we are also embarked on processes to establish free trade zones. The example of Canada, the United States, and Mexico saves me from having to make further comments on the issue.

[Moderator] Hernando Organvides, DIARIO EL PAIS, Madrid.

[Organvides] Mr. President, your country and your government have maintained a belligerent attitude toward Cuba as a country that has yet to achieve its quota of democracy on the continent. Peru's case has recently been added. I would like to know if an exception will be made with Cuba and Peru, out of courtesy, at the next meeting between all the Latin American presidents and their counterparts from Portugal and Spain. You and your government have recently insisted on this issue. Perhaps the forum will insist on the democratization of the two countries?

Excuse me, Mr. President, I also have a second question. Nicaragua is currently withstanding heavy pressure from the United States as a result of Senator Helms' intervention concerning $100 million in aid, which might not be

essential to other more developed countries but is essential to Nicaragua. I would like to know Argentina's position on this critical problem between the United States and Nicaragua. Thank you.

[Menem] Referring to the first issue, Argentina will strictly and steadfastly maintain its attitude concerning countries where democracy and liberty are not respected. Thus, the same position we maintained at the Guadalajara summit and all the occasions where we have had the opportunity to state our views on this issue.... [pauses] We have demanded, within our means, a return to democracy in the countries that you mentioned. We might add Haiti to the list. Referring to the second issue, I discussed the topic with President Chamorro. I think the U.S. senator's position on this issue is untimely, and we will see what the Republic of Argentina can do so the U.S. Senate or Congress does not obstruct this aid to the Republic of Nicaragua.

[Moderator] Osvaldo Bonilla, UPI, Managua.

[Bonilla] Mr. President, there are reports Mr. al-Kassar, a weapons trafficker who traveled with an Argentine passport, has been arrested in Spain. Do you have any information on this? What can you tell us?

[Menem] I have the report. I received it barely a few minutes ago. We do not know for sure why Mr. al-Kassar was arrested in Spain—whether there are any reasons for this, whether it was due to his background, or whether it was due to the arrest warrant sent by Argentine Judge Garzon from Mendoza to Spain. We will know why he was arrested in a matter of hours. It may have been due to the Argentine judge's arrest warrant and the report issued by the Argentine Government, or it may have been due to other reasons. Like I said, we do not know yet.

Upon instructions from another Argentine judge, Mrs. Servina de Cubrias, the Paris offices of this pharaoh financier, or capitalist, or businessman, were raided, and a large number of documents were seized. This is the way the Argentine Government works constantly so that these things are clearly resolved. I repeat, we will see why al-Kassar was arrested—whether it was because of the Argentine Government's request, whether it was because of other reasons, or whether it was because of a raid carried out at this pharaoh's offices in Paris upon instructions from Judge Servina de Cubrias.

[Moderator] Arnold Giron, EL GRAFICO newspaper of Guatemala.

[Giron] Mr. President, my attention has been drawn to the fact that you are the only South American president here. Did the bloc of Central American presidents seek you out for any special reason, or does Argentina have a special interest in the Central American region?

[Menem] It is my understanding that, when these summit meetings are held, a president from the rest of Latin America is normally invited. I believe this is the way these meetings are conducted. I was invited to this summit of Central American heads of state by the president of Nicaragua, first on an official level and then on a personal level. Here I am. I am here to get in touch with Central America's reality. Central America is, in a way, pioneering the field of integration in an effort to increase rapprochement among all of the countries. Argentina has some experience in this field. It is undergoing this experience, and I believe that, as president of Argentina, I can contribute a little of my experience on the subject. This is very important for the present and the future, not only of Central America but of the entire continent.

[Moderator] Eduardo Valdire, Eco, Televisa.

[Valdire] Mr. President, is it true that Argentina is interested in participating as a partner in the Central American Economic Integration Bank to support the Central American economies?

[Menem] It is true. I am going to announce it today.

[Moderator] Juan Jose Lacayo, BARRICADA.

[Lacayo] Mr. President, I wanted to ask you if Argentina is trying to achieve a leadership position in the Central American region?

[Menem] No. I must reiterate that what Argentina wants is Latin American unity. This is not new; it is an effort that began a long time ago. Simon Bolivar spoke to us about the need for unity, and so did San Martin and other Latin American leaders. Argentina wants this yearning, this desire, to come true. I am here now. Perhaps another South American president will attend the next Central American summit. Perhaps the president of Mexico, which is not that far south in relation to Central America, will attend. It is north of Central America. In short, I am not seeking any form of leadership or anything like that. What I want, basically, is constant and permanent cooperation among all of our countries until we achieve integration.

[Moderator] Francisco Herrera, Channel 13 in Costa Rica.

[Herrera] My subject is integration. What methods do you believe would be the most timely to accomplish integration within the shortest time possible? What steps should the Latin American countries take to achieve integration within the very short term?

[Menem] That is how we are doing it. The actions that are under way are similar to those that were established for an identical purpose in Europe following World War II. The integration process in Europe lasted almost 40 years. The process of integrating the European community began with coal and steel. Positive progress was made later on until they reached the current phase. They have economic integration and a sort of geographical and political integration. The process should end at the latest by the end of 1992 or early 1993. These are the dates established by the Europeans for the total demise

of internal barriers and borders. There will be one border that will provide the contour for the European countries that integrate.

We are advancing in that same sense: economic integration, geographical integration at a later date and, of course, proper political integration. I repeat, we will be doing exactly what was being done in Europe. We established the Mercosur [Common Market of the South] on 16 March 1990. The date we set for integration is 31 December 1994.

[Moderator] Ricardo Pino Robles, magazine EL PAIS of Nicaragua.

[Pino Robles] Mr. President, I will also refer to integration. You mentioned the need to make progress in Central American economic integration. In Europe, they began with steel and coal. In Latin America's case, what would be the immediate (?means of achieving) economic integration? Would it be commerce or its relationship with Central America?

[Menem] These types of actions are normally finalized through some form of commercial integration. General Belgrano, a great Argentine politician, statesman, and soldier, said that commerce is the soul of nations. Every integration process must begin through commerce.

We are advancing rapidly on this within Mercosur. I think the same is happening here in Central America. Of course, Central America also has other kinds of tasks to fulfill. The swift and positive pacification of certain sectors is necessary where there are still a number of confrontations occurring, where there are some guerrilla or subversive pockets. Some small ones still remain. This must also be resolved as soon as possible to ensure that integration will also materialize quickly on this continent.... [pauses] in the geographical space based on Central America's economic integration.

[Moderator] Roberto Gonzalez of Radio Sandino's "Eco Newscast."

[Gonzalez] President Menem, good afternoon.

[Menem] How are you?

[Gonzalez] Mr. President, the United States of America waged a war against this country for nearly nine years. It spent billions of dollars to wage a war. On 4 June, the U.S. Administration announced officially that, in heeding a request of the U.S. Congress, it decided to suspend aid to the Nicaraguan Government and people. That is a defined and clear issue.

The government is unable to honor the promises it made to former members of the Army and former contras. There are again armed contras in the mountains waiting for us to continue the war, to continue receiving U.S. aid, to have Nicaraguans continue killing each other. What could you do, as representative of a great country to the south, our brother to the south, and as a man?

[Menem] I already said something about this [chuckles]. I will address the U.S. Government and especially the U.S. President, through the appropriate channels, to ensure that this problem will have the most positive and favorable outcome for Nicaragua. We can do no more. Perhaps after this summit of heads of state, the countries of Central America will complain before the U.S. Government because of the attitude it has assumed in the past days.

[Moderator] Jorge Alberto Zelaya of Honduras' Radio America.

[Zelaya] President Menem, good afternoon. Earlier you talked about extending the deadline on Nicaragua's debt to Argentina. Will this same treatment be given to other Central American countries that hold debts with Argentina?

[Menem] Of course, we will consider requests filed by countries that hold debts with Argentina. There are countries that owe enormous sums to the Argentine Republic. For example, I think that Cuba owes more than $800 or $900 million. All this is under discussion. We will see how we solve this issue with all area countries that hold debts with the Argentine Republic.

[Moderator] Only two more questions. Luis Antonio Zabarrete, Panama's magazine APUNTES.

[Zabarrete] President Menem, good afternoon. Bananas are one of Central America's main industries. The European market is placing restrictions. How can Argentina help counter this restriction announced by the European market for the Central American banana community?

[Menem] This is a problem faced not only by countries producing this kind of product. Argentina and several developing world countries are also facing similar problems because of the subsidies established by powerful countries of Europe, the EEC, the United States, and certain Asian countries. We are working continuously to solve this problem, which is greatly hurting banana-producing countries. It is also hurting countries where agriculture is among the pillars of their development and growth, such as the Argentine Republic.

However, I think this be will resolved without harming our countries in any way, without harming Central American or South American countries. The men who represent our governments are waging a really exceptional struggle in this area.

I know some Central American presidents already discussed this issue in Europe. We are keeping abreast constantly on these things that affect our economies, especially our essential or basic economies. The production of bananas, coffee, and other products is very important here. In Argentina, Brazil, and Uruguay, agricultural production is also important, I would say, for our countries' development possibilities.

We are being hurt very badly. Countries that subsidize their production are granting subsidies of over $500

billion. This is obviously detrimental to our countries. We are working to end these unfair attitudes toward developing countries on the part of the world's powerful countries. In fact, they are asking us to open up our markets, but they are closing theirs to us. This places us at a disadvantage. This is why anything we can achieve in the area of integration is important. It is very difficult to attain some of our objectives alone. Things could be totally different if we were united.

[Moderator] Last question. Ricardo Alfonso Torres, Honduras Press Office.

[Torres] Mr. President, aside from the integration of your country to the Central American Bank of Economic Integration, what other things could be done with the trade between Central America and Argentina?

[Menem] I think we would have to return somewhat.... [pauses] because there are trade balances, balance of payments, that are totally unfavorable to small economies in their exchanges with countries with much larger productions and economies. I think that one of the solutions could be to resort to the old barter system, an exchange of what is produced in our countries throughout Latin America.

However, we must not limit ourselves to trade aspects merely because we are living in an era of knowledge. The support and exchange of science and technology is much more positive than the mere exchange of products. In this aspect, Argentina has the enormous possibility to reach these countries with all its scientific and technological progress, especially with applications to production. We are quite advanced in the application of nuclear energy to medicine, production, and other aspects that could make possible the development and growth of these peoples, for example, of other world peoples. Thus, I think there is a very broad array of possibilities based on the cooperation and solidarity that should prevail among our countries.

Comments on Halt of U.S. Aid

PY0506162992 Buenos Aires TELAM in Spanish 0132 GMT 4 Jun 92

[Text] Managua (Nicaragua), 4 Jun (TELAM)—President Carlos Menem today promised to arbitrate with the United States "through the appropriate channels" to try to overcome the U.S.-Nicaraguan conflict, which ended with the suspension of the U.S. aid to that country.

During a news conference in Managua tonight, Menem said: "I will resort to the appropriate channels to convey to the U.S. Government, and especially to President Bush, the need to solve the conflict in a very positive and favorable manner for Nicaragua."

Menem suggested, however, that, after the current Central American summit, "the attending countries should voice their concerns to the U.S. Government over its recent attitude." Asked if the Argentine Government would "put on hold" the debt owed by Central American countries to Argentina, as it did with Nicaragua, Menem said: "Of course." He referred to this point while answering another question—he said: "Of course. We will consider it when the creditor countries request it. We are discussing this matter, and we will try to solve it."

Menem today began an official visit to Nicaragua, where he will stay until 7 June. He met with Nicaraguan President Violeta Chamorro and other high-ranking government officials and held a news conference. Menem arrived from Guatemala and is scheduled to return to Buenos Aires early in the morning.

Commenting on his presence at the summit, Menem said: "I came to learn about the real situation of Central American countries, because they are a sort of spearhead on integration matters."

Noting the need to implement Latin American integration "as soon as possible," Menem said: "I believe that, in my capacity as Argentine president, I can contribute some of the experience I have gathered on this matter, which concerns the future of the continent."

He denied any possible Argentine interest in leading the Central American summit. He said: "We want Latin American unity, which has already required long years of effort on the basis of constant cooperation."

Menem mentioned the case of Argentina, which is a member of the Common Market of the South along with Brazil, Uruguay, and Paraguay. The integration of these countries is scheduled for 31 December 1994, according to the Asuncion Treaty signed on 26 March 1990.

Menem said: There are other factors affecting integration among Central American countries. "Efforts should be made to support quick and positive pacification in some areas still affected by confrontation, subversion, or guerrilla activities."

He noted that this unification process should be carried out "in a similar way" to that which was achieved in Europe after World War II "through economic, geographic, and political integration."

Menem affirmatively replied to a question on the interest Argentina expressed in being a partner in the Central American Economic Integration Bank in the effort to support Central American economies.

As for the European market's restrictions on banana exports—the pillar of Central American industries—and some Argentine products, Menem said: "We are seeking to overcome these examples of industrialized countries' disloyal attitudes toward developing nations."

Menem said: This discrimination "is the result of the subsidy policy implemented by powerful EEC countries, the United States, and some Asian countries." He predicted, however, that the problem "will be solved without harming the countries involved."

Chamorro, Calderon on Trade

PA0506160292 Managua BARRICADA in Spanish
4 Jun 92 pp 1, 6

[Text] According to the agreements signed by the presidents of the region, Central America will have a 20-percent ceiling on customs tariffs by mid-1993. Some people believe free trade is a panacea for economic development. For others, the economic opening is very dangerous for national producers. The process, however, has already been included in the joint regional program. Answering questions posed by BARRICADA, Nicaraguan President Violeta Chamorro and Costa Rican President Rafael Angel Calderon Fournier made these exclusive statements.

[BARRICADA] What are the advantages and disadvantages of free trade for the Central American region?

[Chamorro] When the Central American Common Market began in the sixties, the idea was to increase protectionism regarding third country imports and to free trade between member countries as an incentive for industrial development geared toward the protected markets of the five Central American countries.

The result was not very positive for Nicaragua. The majority of the new industrial investment went to Guatemala, El Salvador, and Costa Rica. Imports from those countries swept away most of our small industries and craft shops. That created huge trade deficits in the Common Market. Our production cost in the agro-industrial activities increased. In spite of those things, we managed to maintain a competitive edge in the field.

As Nicaragua has been endowed with a great deal of land and other natural resources, it is naturally inclined to exploit agro-industrial, forestry, and fishery activities, including industries based on those resources, which are set up not to supply small regional markets but to pursue the big international markets.

To be complete in those markets, we cannot afford the luxury of subsidizing inefficient activities or ones in which we do not have a competitive edge.

The results of the gradual liberalization of commerce being implemented in Nicaragua will be far more positive and with a much lower social cost than in the rest of Central America, because Nicaragua did not gain as much as the other countries did in the Common Market and because our future is based on agro-industrial and natural resources.

[Calderon] Free trade for Central America is, quite simply, one opportunity to leave underdevelopment behind. We now need to improve our production efficiency. That will result in greater profits and will allow us to avoid inefficiency, underemployment, and the squandering of resources. We now need to concentrate on producing what will sell best, not on our local or regional markets, but on the huge world market. That will allow our societies to increase their purchasing power and speed the process of social improvement.

You ask me if there are any disadvantages to Central American integration with the world economy. I believe the disadvantages lie in not doing so. History clearly shows that protectionism and unionism severely restricted possibilities for growth and social progress in Central America during the sixties and the eighties. Nobody wins when free trade is restricted. You can see that in the case of our banana exports to Europe. Our countries will suffer losses with the proposed quota regulations for the importation of Central American bananas to Europe. If those regulations are approved, the export of Latin American bananas would decrease 30 percent in 1993. Undoubtedly, that is an enormous loss. The odd thing is that in the process, Europe will also suffer. If this situation occurs, the European consumer will have to pay a much higher price for the fruit and will not be able to select the best existing variety of the product. The truth is that everybody suffers when free trade is restricted.

[BARRICADA] How is your country preparing to face the economic challenges of free trade?

[Chamorro] My government's entire economic strategy is based on creating the conditions necessary for Nicaragua to enjoy the enormous benefits afforded by free trade and to minimize transition costs.

Ironically, it might be easier for Nicaragua than for the other countries in the region to attract national and foreign investment geared to international markets because we have fewer established economic interests that demand protection.

The sectors that would benefit most from this new situation would be the most impoverished ones: the farmers and the peasants.

In addition to the economic reforms we have been implementing and on which we have made great progress, the most important preparatory step we can take is maintaining peace and order in the country.

[Calderon] Costa Rica has been promoting various reforms since the mid-eighties. The most important ones have been enhanced over the last two years. Those reforms will enable us to face more successfully the challenges posed by the globalization of the world economy.

First, I must mention that we have made great efforts to stabilize the economy so we can build strong foundations for future development and social progress. Thanks to the efforts of all Costa Ricans, today we have a healthier, more stable economy than we had two years ago.

In addition, during the past months we have made profound changes in our monetary system and in our foreign trade policy in order to expand our economic opportunities and competitiveness. The main measures we have adopted include the complex liberalization of

the foreign exchange market and expediting the duty reduction process, which will lead us, as well as the other Central American countries, to establish a maximum duty of 20 percent by mid-1993.

We have also improved our financial intermediation policies, keeping in mind their affect on savings rates and the quality of investments through their impact on the assignment of funds.

The wise fiscal and monetary policies of the past two years have produced a stable macroeconomic framework. However, macroeconomic stability alone is not enough: We need strength to advance and guidance to achieve our goals.

Reforming our commercial and financial intermediation policies by broadening our markets and encouraging savings is the engine of economic growth.

Our monetary policy and customs duties are the steering wheel that will direct us toward greater economic growth and social progress.

Furthermore, in December of 1991 we approved an aggressive industrial retraining plan by which our businessmen are given assistance to face the new challenges of international markets under improved technological conditions.

'Managua Declaration' Issued

PA0606035492 Panama City ACAN in Spanish 0105 GMT 6 Jun 92

["Full text" of the "Managua Declaration," issued in Managua, Nicaragua, by the presidents of Costa Rica, El Salvador, Guatemala, Honduras, Nicaragua, and Panama on 5 June, at the conclusion of the 12th Central American Presidential Summit]

[Text] Managua, 5 Jun (ACAN-EFE)—The following is the full text of the "Managua Declaration" signed on 5 June at the 12th Central American Presidential Summit.

Managua Declaration:

During a meeting in Managua, Nicaragua, on 4 and 5 June 1992, the presidents of Costa Rica, El Salvador, Guatemala, Honduras, Nicaragua, and Panama, with the presence of the prime minister of Belize as an observer,

Certain that:

The past 11 meetings of Central American presidents have represented in the region's history an unprecedented effort directed at securing peace and at continuing on the road to development in a democratic and pluralist framework with the support of the international community;

These highest level meetings have made possible a greater rapprochement among our countries and have made viable the establishment of a new outlook based on cooperation, commitment, and mechanisms that provide greater opportunities for an institutional strengthening of the region's integration process;

It is necessary to evaluate commitments, achievements, and expectations created by the process that was initiated in Esquipulas so that Central America may give a fresh and imaginative response to the changes that have taken place in the region and the world to face the challenges of a new international order;

In this new phase of Central America, the agreements resulting from the presidents' meetings and the consolidation of achievements require a renewed decision to comply with commitments;

We declare that:

1. The Esquipulas process represents an expression of regional sovereignty and self-determination of much historic significance. This process has allowed Central Americans to set their own principles and goals and to adopt most important decisions on their future. This is a reaffirmation of the identity and autonomy of the people of the area and an essential condition for their integral development.

2. One fundamental significance of this single, harmonic, and indivisible process is that it has created awareness of the fact that the future of Central America depends on its ability to jointly, as a region, face the challenges of peace, democracy, and development.

3. The institutionalization of the meetings of Central American presidents represents a vigorous and necessary tool for strengthening regional integration.

4. The existence and implementation of the Tegucigalpa Protocol, which reformed the Organization of Central American States and created the Central American Integration System, will permit us to create efficiently the necessary institutions and will contribute to improve the efforts being made to create the Central American Community. As a result of this, we express our pleasure over the ratification of this protocol by El Salvador, Honduras, and Nicaragua, as well as our hopes for prompt ratification by the other signatory countries. To promote prompt implementation of the Tegucigalpa Protocol, the presidents have decided to constitute a preparatory commission and to appoint Dr. Roberto Herrera Caceres, a Honduran citizen, as chairman of this commission.

5. To point out the role that the Central American Parliament has played as a regional forum for making proposals, analyses, and recommendations, a role that has been made evident by its resolutions and by the interparliamentary links it has established among the congresses and legislative assemblies of the Central American states. We are interested in this process continuing and for this reason we are emphasizing that it is important that the San Salvador Protocol goes into effect soon and that it is desirable that all the Central American

states participate in this protocol. For this reason we ask the Central American Parliament that, in addition to the observers from Nicaragua, it invites observers from Costa Rica and Panama.

6. For the first time in history, today's Central America has in its countries governments elected by the free and secret vote of the people. They also have authentic democratic, pluralist, and participative processes that respect fundamental political liberties.

7. Our fundamental commitment is to safeguard the stability of democracy in the region by constantly perfecting free institutions that function in the framework of a lawful state and of democratic solidarity, meaning the firm decision to defend regional institutions.

8. To strengthen democratic coexistence it is necessary to maintain a broad political, economic, and social dialogue and national reconciliation.

9. The use of violence to reach political power, the existence of armed groups that act outside the law, terrorism, and destabilization activities are completely unjustified in the region because they go against the democratic system and human rights and because they negatively affect the full consolidation of peace and democracy in Central America.

In this regard we express our strongest condemnation of all acts of this nature and we reiterate our firm conviction that democracy and a state of law offer suitable mechanisms for resolving political, economic, and social problems.

In particular we want to reject the acts of terrorism that extremist and destabilizing groups have been carrying out in Guatemala, actions that have increased recently, something that has no justification. Taking into consideration the disposition and important measures adopted by the government of President Serrano Elias, we urge the irregular rebel groups to adopt, as soon as possible, a total peace agreement that would permit the reconciliation of Guatemalan society, which is congruent with the new phase of peace, liberty, democracy, and development that is being consolidated in Central America.

10. Unrestricted respect for all human rights constitutes the mainstay of the efforts the governments we represent have made, and the most specific proof of the enforcement of democracy and its institutions, due to which we reiterate our firmest pledge to promote and preserve these rights to guarantee their total fulfillment.

Highlight the appointment, reported during this summit, of Central American experts to the committee that will set in motion the human rights program agreed on with the EC during the "San Jose VIII" conference.

11. Nicaragua's pacification, the El Salvador peace agreements, and progress of the dialogue and reconciliation process in Guatemala, genuinely attest to the existence of a peace process that is undergoing gradual consolidation in Central America.

12. The processes whereby peace will be consolidated and democracy strengthened in Central America are as important as the end of the war and the restoration of democratic institutions and, therefore, require sustained international cooperation. To this end, we call on the international community to continue supporting Central America's economic reactivation, thereby strengthening its achievements in the areas of pacification and the construction of a democratic order.

13. The visit by the presidents of Costa Rica, Honduras, and Panama to several EC countries to arrange, at the highest level, for fair treatment for Latin American and banana producing ACP [African, Caribbean and Pacific] countries' exports, clearly proves that the countries in the region have made a firm decision to maintain an important source of foreign currency and development for these nations. Likewise, we highlight President Serrano Elias' visit to Spain for the same purpose.

14. We congratulate ourselves for the results of the International Coffee Organization [OIC] meeting in London at the beginning of April, during which it was agreed that a new OIC agreement would be negotiated. To this end and to step up the formalization of this pledge, we instructed the Central American representatives at the OIC to maintain a firm position in support of the implementation of the new agreement that will regulate future international coffee trade relations. We asked the U.S. and EC governments to support the Central American countries' negotiations, and urged them to activate the negotiation of the coffee pact in question.

15. The illicit trafficking of weapons in the region deserves our strongest condemnation. The elimination of the illegal trafficking of weapons in Central American territory is an essential element to safeguard democratic stability in the region, in accordance with the pledges established at Esquipulas and in the OAS cooperation mechanisms on security. In this regard, we highlighted the advantage of creating and strengthening flexible assistance, cooperation, and coordination mechanisms.

16. Within the new model of regional security, an important role is played by the negotiation of a verifiable Central American agreement on the issues entrusted to the Security Commission.

17. The principle of peacefully resolving controversies is a basic rule for coexistence among the states in the region. Proof of this is the confirmation of the Salvadoran and Honduran Governments' pledge to adhere to the International Court of Justice [ICJ] sentence that will legally resolve the border conflict between the two nations.

18. Nicaragua's standing down from the complaint lodged at the ICJ is reason for joy because it opens a new phase of relations between Nicaragua and Honduras.

19. A new vision of international cooperation with Central America is an essential and integral part of the

region's political agenda, and of the new phase Central Americans are experiencing. To this end, international cooperation and trade are essential to the consolidation of regional pacification and democratization, due to which they should be offered without conditions.

Access of our basic products to international markets under fair conditions is an essential element for the democratization process and the achievement of economic development and social well-being in Central America.

In view of the above, we express confidence that the U.S. Government will make the disbursements that have been programmed, so the urgent needs of the Nicaraguan people can be met. This financial cooperation constitutes legitimate acknowledgement of the efforts made by the Nicaraguan Government which, despite adverse political, economic, and social conditions, has made significant progress in economic stabilization, and the establishment and consolidation of democracy within state governed by the rule of law.

20. The process of reincorporating demobilized fighters and uprooted townspeople affected by the conflict to productive life is still a priority in our countries, and requires the support of international cooperation.

21. The consolidation of the meetings by the economic cabinets of the Central American countries is reason for satisfaction. Recognizing their important function as a regional body responsible for proposing, executing, and coordinating economic agreements and pledges made by the Central American presidents, we highlight the contents of that forum's first Activities Program and the work of the Forum of Ministers Responsible for Central America's Economic Integration and Regional Development as the liaison and spokesman for the economic cabinets.

We also acknowledge the work carried out by the SIECA [Secretariat of Central American Economic Integration], and the support given this forum by the other regional integration bodies in their areas of competency.

22. We are pleased to have received a report from the Acting Ministers for Central American Integration and Regional Development, which contains the status of the presidential mandates. In addition, we are pleased by the termination of the negotiations on a Uniform Central American Tariff because of the tariff's importance as an instrument for the region's social and economic development. We are also satisfied with the signing of the protocol that amends the Central American Tariff and Customs Agreement, which will enact the Central American tariff system (SAC). Similarly, we are pleased by the approval of the Single Form and the Regulation on the Central American Origin of Goods. We urge the responsible forums to make the necessary efforts to finish the actions, which are in process.

23. The enactment on 7 February 1992 of the Temporary Multilateral Free Trade Agreement between Honduras and the other Central American countries will make it possible for Honduras to join fully the Central American General Economic Integration Treaty.

24. The approval by the Inter-American Development Bank [IDB] of the Regional Program to Support Central America's Development and Integration (PRADIC), as well as the signing of this program by the IDB president and the Central American presidents at IDB heaquarters, are a particular cause of joy for area residents.

25. The magnitude and complexity of the social problems require our best efforts to diminish poverty. This demands far-reaching actions on existing social conditions to ensure that we can advance toward total recovery and integrated development.

26. This integrated development demands continued and increasing harmony between social and economic policies, and between competent institutions.

27. We gladly listened to the deputy ministers' of education remarks on the creation of a Central American Council for the Care of the Disabled Minor, as well as the council's first working plan.

28. It is urgent and of priority importance to reinforce the measures leading to the fulfillment of programs and projects to strengthen education and culture, which are essential for the development of the region's peoples. Therefore, we point out the need for the pertinent agencies to continue their present activities and make even greater, fruitful efforts. These agencies should likewise do everything possible to secure the necessary support for this important objective.

29. Supportable development should include the best possible effort to meet the population's needs, particularly those of the less favored sectors. Consequently, this development is closely linked to peace, democracy, the environment's recovery, popular participation, and our responsibility for our future.

30. Marked progress has been made in establishing a regional environmental cooperation system, proposed at and given impetus by the Central American Environment and Development Agreement, which encourages a supportable development model. This model seeks to meet present needs without putting in jeopardy the capacity of future generations.

31. It is Central America's inalienable right to have the appropriate climate for its future development. To testify to our firm commitment to the conservation and development of our sustainable environment in favor of the global ecological balance, we sign, on this date, the Agreement for the Conservation of Biodiversity and the Protection of Priority Woodland Areas in Central America. We instruct the Executive Commission and the corresponding authorities to study the Agreement on Across-the-Border Movement of Dangerous Refuse in the Central American Region to be able to approve it in a 90-day period.

32. On the occasion of the World Earth Summit in Brazil, we reaffirm our call for the establishment of a new international ecological order, which will ensure not only the peaceful coexistence of human populations, but also our harmonic coexistence with nature.

33. Central Americans have started a new phase in our history, one in which it is necessary to consolidate Central America as a region of peace, freedom, democracy, and development. To further this end, we adopt the Managua Agenda as part of this declaration on this date. The agenda will define actions and emphasize commitments to allow us to improve the democratic system and the state of law; hasten the process of integration at a regional level and with other blocs of countries; reduce extreme poverty; establish a new regional ecological order; promote our development; boost education, health, culture; and strengthen a new model of Central American security.

34. Argentine President Carlos Saul Menem's presence at the summit pleases us profoundly and the signing of the Joint Declaration between Argentina and Central America strengthens the spirit of fraternity that should prevail in relations between Latin American countries.

We accept the invitation of Honduran President Rafael Leonardo Callejas to attend the events to commemorate the bicentennial of the birth of General Francisco Morazan, which will be held in Tegucigalpa on 3 October. We also accept the invitation by Salvadoran President Alfredo F. Cristiani to attend the conclusion of the peace agreements' implementation process to be held in that brother country on 31 October.

35. The 13th Central American Presidential Summit will be held in the Republic of Panama on 9, 10, and 11 December 1992.

36. The presidents of Costa Rica, El Salvador, Guatemala, Honduras, and Panama, as well as the Belizean Prime Minister, thank Nicaraguan President Violeta Barrios de Chamorro and, through her, the people and government of the Republic of Nicaragua, for their attentions and warm hospitality, which afforded a favorable climate for the success of this summit.

[Issued] Managua, Republic of Nicaragua 5 June 1992

[Signed] Rafael Angel Calderon Fournier President, Republic of Costa Rica
Jorge Antonio Serrano Elias President, Republic of Guatemala
Violeta Barrios de Chamorro President, Republic of Nicaragua
Alfredo F. Cristiani Burkard President, Republic of El Salvador
Rafael Leonardo Callejas President, Republic of Honduras
Guillermo Endara Galimany President, Republic of Panama
Guest Observer George Price Prime Minister of Belize

Callejas Holds News Conference

PA0606134592 Managua Radio Nicaragua Network in Spanish 1342 GMT 5 Jun 92

[News conference by Honduran President Rafael Leonardo Callejas on the occasion of the 12th Central American Presidential Summit with domestic and foreign reporters at the Camino Real Hotel in Managua—live]

[Excerpts] [Passage omitted] [Reporter] [Words indistinct]

[Callejas] I am very satisfied. On 4 June, we held a regular meeting. The Managua Declaration, which will be reported on later, was debated. I would not like to discuss something the presidents have not yet approved. We received the special visit of Argentine President Carlos Saul Menem. As you know, an important extraregional agreement was signed dealing with Argentine's participation in the Central American Economic Integration Bank. This in itself constitutes a significant step because it entails the support of a nation, so important in Latin America's life, that has overcome its crisis and is now preparing to enter a new stage of economic, political, and social development. Through Argentina's participation, agreement proposals for the Southern Cone Common Market have been obtained. We expect the visit of presidents to Argentina and other countries in the coming months to result in bilateral actions and a multilateral response for Central American integration. As soon as I arrived in Managua, I met with Daniel Ortega and thanked him publicly for his cooperation in withdrawing the demand at the International Court of Justice regarding the activities of the Nicaraguan counterrevolutionaries in our territory. The demand was withdrawn according to the will of all sectors. I met with Alfredo Cesar, president of the Nicaraguan Assembly, and also thanked him for his cooperation in this matter. I also had the pleasure of receiving the mayor of Managua. On 1 October, I expect to be here to participate in the commemoration of the 200th birthday of the extraordinary Central American distinguished citizen, General Francisco Morazan. At that time, with the Nicaraguan legislative branch and the Managua mayor, we will inaugurate a plaza, an avenue, and an equestrian statue of General Morazan.

I participated actively in the meeting on 4 June. On 5 June, as the Honduran reporters know, I said hello to Cardinal Miguel Obando y Bravo because, since the beginning of my term, he was of great help on settling the Honduras-Nicaragua disagreement. Thanks to Monsignor Obando, the Toncontin Agreement became a reality and the counterrevolutionaries departed Honduran territory on 18 April 1990. [passage omitted]

[Reporter] There will be another summit meeting of Iberian-American presidents in Spain shortly. This will be the second as the first one was held in Guadalajara. Do you think this meeting will serve the Central American community as preparation for this summit meeting

in Spain, where all of Europe and other Latin American countries will have their collective eyes riveted on the community?

[Callejas] In this meeting, we will address topics of common interest, both for Central and Latin American nations. These will be fundamental subjects, such as the ones touched upon by President Menem on 4 June, when he spoke of our destiny for 2000, a rapprochement among Latin America's markets and integration, and the democratic system. He expanded on two fundamental problems in the continent, those represented by Peru and Haiti. The Guadalajara Iberian-American summit and the coming Madrid summit meeting opened and will continue to open a path of solidarity between Latin American and Iberian-American countries. We will have a common interest in some areas, such as integration, democracy, environment, and foreign policies oriented to free international trade and to strengthen commercial ties among ourselves. This trade is very low. That is to say, the commercial relations between us and Europe, represented by Spain and Portugal, are very weak. [passage omitted]

[Moderator] Francisco Mora of [words indistinct].

[Mora] [Question indistinct]

[Callejas] I would like to acknowledge—and I said so from the time of the Tegucigalpa summit—that peace is the main element of each country's internal decisions regarding security and integration with Central America. We are building peace. However, some Central American nations still have not received answers from groups that are incompatible with the democratic system and that are illegitimately struggling to attain power. They must lay down their weapons and seek peace. In Honduras' case, we have made decisions consistent with military downsizing and certain other ways of handling the relationship between the Armed Forces and society. We are aware of this and have agreed that the Security Commission will continue to work toward this goal until the opportunity arises to achieve our overall objective of downsizing military forces in the Central American region. However, as long as the elements I have mentioned are not made concrete, those decisions will be unilateral in nature.

[Moderator] RPC of Panama.

[Reporter] Mr. President, recently you and the presidents of Panama and Costa Rica made a tour to discuss the banana issue. That tour has been called a failure. What new strategy do you have to prevent the imposition of restrictions on bananas by the European market?

[Callejas] This is an important issue, and I am concerned that certain sectors—for reasons I am unaware of—are saying it was not a success. The fact is that prior to the tour, the conditions were already given for the EEC to impose a quota system that would have created a unfavorable situation for Latin American banana exports. That was already a fact. Our visit made it possible for the Latin American banana-producing countries to be heard, and the issue is currently being debated.

I would not describe a tour like this one as a success or a failure. I would describe it as interactive, a survival effort by countries like ours that depend on bananas, particularly the Central American countries and Ecuador, where it is a huge source of foreign currency. I regard the tour with moderate optimism, and I say moderate optimism in the sense that we managed to get many countries to support us, and others like France and England listened to us. Just because they met with us and heard us out, I believe the tour can be described as positive in terms of the huge problem that bananas pose for the Latin American countries that export them to Europe.

We must understand that if the EEC insists on adopting decisions that limit the access of Latin American bananas to Europe, the effect on our countries will be very negative. We acknowledge that it is important for the ACP [African, Caribbean, and Pacific] countries to maintain favorable conditions, because they do not have our competitive capabilities. However, that is the responsibility of the Europeans; it is not the Latin Americans' fault that we have the capability and efficiency to export better quality bananas at lower prices to the European market.

These are very complex principles because it might suddenly turn out that bananas are the only product that emerge from the Uruguay Round or, in other words, the GATT. That is inconceivable to us. The world is headed toward free trade, and we do not see why we should be limited.

The tour should not be described as favorable or unfavorable. It should be viewed from the standpoint of Latin American banana-producing societies, as something imperative for our survival. We made this effort because we felt there was an option for the Latin Americans to be heard, to state their needs, and to make it understood what bananas mean to Latin Americans. Within that context, we were heard, and that very fact is a favorable step toward achieving the very clear goal of improving the conditions of our bananas in Europe.

[Moderator] [Words indistinct]

[Reporter] Mr. President, from its inception until today, how do you evaluate the integration process in terms of its social, political, and economic aspects?

[Callejas] I view it very positively. First, an integrationist awareness exists in Central America. Several countries have already taken positive steps regarding the Central American Parliament and adherence to the Tegucigalpa Protocol, which establishes the institutionality of the former ODECA [Organization of Central American States], namely, the Executive Secretariat for Integration.

Three countries [Guatemala, El Salvador, and Honduras] have already taken important steps so in January of 1993 we can have a common foreign tariff and similar fiscal and monetary policies. In 1993, other countries will be in the process of reaching that level. In other words, by the end of 1993, Central America will be a free trade zone with a common foreign tariff in most countries. That in itself represents a far-reaching step.

In the political, economic, and infrastructure areas, we are taking important steps to achieve the goal of a fully integrated Central America.

[Moderator] [Words indistinct]

[Reporter] [Question indistinct]

[Callejas] President Carlos Saul Menem's visit to Guatemala paves the way for Argentina's presence at the Central American presidential summits. I consider it very appropriate that the Guatemalan president received him before he travelled to Managua on an invitation from President Violeta Chamorro. That allowed Menem to understand the scope of Central American integration.

Within that framework, Menem's visit to Guatemala is highly positive, and I recognize its importance for we Central Americans.

Concerning the other question, the communique issued during my visit to Guatemala was very clear. I stated that I supported President Serrano's efforts to seek peace in Guatemala. It is important that the illegal groups, which violate Guatemala's laws, state their views and end their actions. That will permit them to solve their problems peacefully.

We fully support President Jorge Serrano's extraordinary efforts to attain peace in Guatemala, that being the number one objective of his government.

[Moderator] (Rolando Sarmiento) of Voz de Honduras Network will now take the floor.

[(Sarmiento)] Mr. President, after the Tela Agreements, Honduras rapidly moved to demilitarize itself and withdraw the forces of the Nicaraguan Resistance from its territory. That made peace possible in Nicaragua. However, it took time to withdraw the suit against Honduras at the International Court of Justice [ICJ].

We have another case at hand. I am referring to the case of El Salvador. Within the context of the presidential summit, how do you view this situation and the ICJ's possible ruling on the matter?

[Callejas] We are confident the ruling will be issued soon and that it will indeed contribute to defining the borders between Honduras and El Salvador.

The Central American countries understand that the ICJ's resolution will resolve a historical problem between two sister nations. We sense happiness and satisfaction on the part of the Central American presidents, because soon, perhaps by the end of July, the ICJ will issue its ruling.

Since the meeting in Ocotepeque and other meetings, the president of El Salvador and I have clearly stated that both Honduras and El Salvador will abide by the ruling of the ICJ in good faith, as was agreed when the peace treaty between Honduras and El Salvador was signed more than a decade ago. The governments have been observing the agreements established in the peace treaty, stating our positions, and documenting the historical background for the trial. We hope that the ruling, based on the legitimate interests of our nations, will be issued in keeping with the delimitation of the border. That will permit us to strengthen the ties between Honduras and El Salvador.

[Moderator] Because of time considerations, we will allow one more question. Jorge Torres of RCN will speak.

[Torres] [Question indistinct]

[Callejas] This may be a topic that will be discussed, but so far I do not know if it will be discussed today. Thank you very much.

[Announcer] This is the end of the news conference held on the morning of 5 June by Honduran President Rafael Leonardo Callejas.

Chamorro Speaks at Closing Session

PA0606043392 Managua Radio Nicaragua Network in Spanish 2205 GMT 5 Jun 92

[Speech by Nicaraguan President Violeta Barrios de Chamorro at the closing session of the 12th Central American Presidential Summit at the Olof Palme Convention Center in Managua—live]

[Text] Your Excellency Mr. Rafael Angel Calderon, president of the Republic of Costa Rica, and Mrs. Gloria Bejarano de Calderon; Your Excellency Mr. Alfredo Cristiani Burkard, president of the Republic of El Salvador, and Mrs. Margarita de Cristiani; Your Excellency Mr. Jorge Serrano Elias, president of the Republic of Guatemala, and Mrs. Magda Bianchi de Serrano; Your Excellency Mr. Rafael Leonardo Callejas, president of the Republic of Honduras; Your Excellency Guillermo Endara Galimany, president of the Republic of Panama; Your Excellency George Price, prime minister of Belize; Mr. Chien Fu, foreign minister of Taiwan; Mr. Joao Baena Soares, secretary general of the OAS; Monsignor Eddy Montenegro, representative of His Eminence Cardinal Miguel Obando y Bravo; Messrs. members of the state branches; Mr. Daniel Ortega, former president of the Republic of Nicaragua; Messrs. members of the participating delegations; Messrs. members of the diplomatic corps, observers, and special guests; ladies and gentlemen:

We conclude a summit that has been different from the other meetings the Central American presidents held in the past. This time we have met to evaluate the implementation of all the pledges assumed throughout the Esquipulas process. We want to make a positive balance upon conclusion of the Managua meeting. Central America has managed to change its image despite the difficulties and obstacles which still arise. We owe this new Central America to our people's efforts and the presidential summits' contributions to strengthen peace and democracy in our nations.

We have issued the Declaration of Managua, which reflects an analysis of the process as a whole. I want to mention specifically this declaration, which shows a new phase in Central America's life. We also emphasized the firm pledge to perfect democracy, strengthen the rule of the law, and sponsor respect for human rights. We also carefully and specially studied the drug trafficking problem and we agreed to establish adequate mechanisms to fight and eradicate the problem. We again proclaimed an essential principle—the peaceful solution of differences between our states. We talked about a new regional security model and new concept of international cooperation toward Central America, fully aware of the close ties between peace and development.

Referring to this issue, I wish to thank—on behalf of the Nicaraguan Government and people—all the Central American nations and friends for their concern about the recent bill presented at the U.S. Senate to withhold disbursements of the financial aid for my country. We have found a united and solitary Central America to fight against the dangers derived from a delay in the disbursements destined to strengthen our economic and social process. The Central American presidents have shown a sincere understanding of the need to maintain cooperation toward Nicaragua. They realize that, now more than ever, the progress achieved in Nicaragua's democratization and peace process requires the international community's decided support.

Referring to this, we have reasserted our message to the international community—war should not be the only thing which calls the international community's attention to Central America. The hard work that the consolidation of peace entails also requires great attention from the international community to avoid losing the progress achieved. Peace will be a new illusion in Central America without economic growth and social justice. The tasks we have analyzed and our pledge toward the future, stated in the Managua agenda, would be in vain if we do not have the necessary international support to help us overcome great limitations.

The Managua agenda represents our program for the future and our idea of what Central Americans want to be. We agreed to emphasize that the strengthening of our judicial branches, the management of justice, and our electoral organizations are essential to perfect our democratic system. We have given a specific mandate to the security commission so it may achieve definite progress in the negotiation to establish the limits of our weapons and military forces. We have reviewed the contributions and initiatives for Central America that have been presented in recent years. We particularly established guidelines for our relations with the EEC, the Rio Group, the Association for Democracy and Development, the Group of Three, negotiations with Mexico and Venezuela; relations with the Caribbean Common Market, Taiwan, and the Enterprise of the Americas Initiative.

We also firmly established our position concerning the banana and coffee marketing issue. We reviewed another important issue—the reduction of poverty. We received a Central American agenda on ecology and development and we signed an agreement to protect our environment. The Central American Governments presented a joint position on this issue at the world ecology summit held in mid-April. These have been the essential achievements of this summit. It marks the beginning of a new Central America, which has learned its lessons from the past and now begins the construction of a new future in peace, progress, and liberty. Thank you. [applause]

Panama's Endara Speaks

PA0606044392 Managua Radio Nicaragua Network in Spanish 2213 GMT 5 Jun 92

[Speech by Panamanian President Guillermo Endara Galimany at the closing ceremony of the 12th Central American Presidential Summit at the Olof Palme Convention Center in Managua—live]

[Text] Your Excellency, Mrs. Violeta Barrios de Chamorro, president of the Republic of Nicaragua; Your Excellency, Mr. Rafael Angel Calderon Fournier, president of the Republic of Costa Rica; Your Excellency, Mr. Alfredo Cristiani, president of the Republic of El Salvador; Your Excellency, Mr. Jorge Serrano Elias, president of the Republic of Guatemala; Your Excellency, Mr. Rafael Leonardo Callejas, president of the Republic of Honduras; Your Excellency, Mr. George Price, prime minister of the Republic of Belize; Your Excellencies, Messrs. foreign ministers; honorable first ladies; honorable members of the state branches of the Republic of Nicaragua; distinguished former president of the Republic of Nicaragua; honorable members of the diplomatic corps; Messrs. delegates and special guests; Nicaraguan people; Central American people.

Barely two years ago Panama participated for the first time in this cycle of presidential summits. At the time, my country was emerging from the worst political, economic, and social crisis in its history. But the people who live in the center of America are now full of hope and pride. We live in peace and democracy and we have the possibility of achieving a better future. It is true problems are still critical and large groups of the population are justifiably impatient to achieve development. It is precisely for their sake that we must dedicate our best efforts in the peaceful atmosphere that now prevails.

Therefore, we must apply formulas and implement economic policies that guarantee an effective and quick transition and sustained development.

Regional integration will definitely play an important role in this. That is why I am here to reassert Panama's wish to join the region in facing the challenges the future may present. The main progress Panama has achieved is that our willingness to make the integration process a reality is a decision adopted not only by my government; it is also the attitude adopted by the Panamanian people. We have compared the advantages of integration with the problems this process involves. We know the balance is positive and we are now firmly on our way to join the friendly Central American countries.

Today, on looking back and evaluating all the pledges we have voluntarily made, we realize how positive this high-level process has been. Proof of this is the signing of the Tegucigalpa Protocol which modifies the Organization of Central American States Charter, which clearly states the idea of the integration that countries on the isthmus have designed as an institutional guide for our efforts. Panama's participation has increased continuously. First, we participated as observers in the Antigua, Guatemala summit. During our participation in the San Salvador summit, we stated our firm determination to fully join the new integration scheme. The statement was later reasserted with the signing of the Tegucigalpa Protocol. Now, in Managua, I proudly announce we are preparing to hold in our country—for the first time—the Central American presidents' summit. Thus, I invite you so we may jointly analyze agrarian and livestock issues during the 13th summit in December in Panama.

We cannot participate in this summit without clearly stating one more time our rejection of the measures suggested by the EEC against the highest principles of free trade and against our main export product. Since 7 April, when the first media communique was issued stating the commissioners' position, we have tirelessly endeavored to neutralize the posturing to establish a limit throughout the EEC market. We immediately established diplomatic contact with all the countries that are in any way capable of influencing the council of minister's decision.

On 22 April we sponsored in Panama the meeting of ministers of banana producing countries. Accompanied by our counterparts from Costa Rica and Honduras, we visited the chiefs of state of France, the UK, and Belgium. This is clear evidence of our firm decision to face this arbitrary proposal.

We trust that when the issue reaches the highest decisionmaking level, the principles that serve as the basis of the EC—open markets and free trade—will prevail.

All of us will seek a solution that will not endanger our democratic system or the integration projects to which all of us are firmly committed.

I want to reiterate our firmest commitment to continue adopting reasonable actions to guarantee the source of employment for hundreds of thousands of workers who depend on the cultivation of bananas for their subsistence.

I trust that as a result of our joint efforts we will have a more united region and a stronger democracy.

Geography has united us, history complements this unity, similar interests and objectives contribute to integration, and the diversity of resources and development plans serve our nations to complement each other.

This is where unity will yield expected fruits. This is when the isthmus will project to the rest of the world an image of peace, liberty, democracy, and development. [applause]

The new era in Central America requires, more than ever, international cooperation. With great concern we have been notified that the U.S. Senate Foreign Relations Committee is reviewing a bill to withhold financial aid already approved for Nicaragua. President of Nicaragua Violeta Barrios de Chamorro, and the Nicaraguan people, you have our firm support at this historic juncture; we are convinced that the international community will continue to support the democratic process in the region. Whatever happens in Nicaragua will also have repercussions in Panama.

I will conclude by saying on behalf of my colleagues who have participated in this summit and on my own behalf that we sincerely thank Mrs. Chamorro and the Nicaraguan people for their pleasant hospitality, a characteristic that has always distinguished this noble and hard-working people.

I also want to congratulate Mrs. Chamorro for the excellent job her people did in organizing this historic event. Greetings. I will be seeing you in Panama for the forthcoming summit.

May God bless Central America.

Thank you very much.

Serrano Holds News Conference

PA0706025292 Managua Radio Nicaragua Network in Spanish 2021 GMT 5 Jun 92

[News conference by Guatemalan President Jorge Serrano Elias at the Camino Real Hotel in Managua, on the occasion of the 12th Central American Presidential Summit, with unidentified moderator and foreign and domestic correspondents—live]

[Text] [Moderator] Following the statements by His Excellency the president of Guatemala, we will begin a question and answer period.

[Serrano] Dear friends, I want to thank you very much. I also want to apologize for the delay, but the agenda is running behind schedule. We had a luncheon with the

presidents that lasted longer than expected, but finally I am pleased to meet with the press.

I would like to make a very brief statement. As president of all Guatemalans, I want to reaffirm once more that my country is a peace-loving country and that we are doing everything possible to attain peace. We are pursuing the definite reconciliation of all Guatemalans. We want to open our arms so that in a legal and orderly manner, all Guatemalans can live within our country, exercising all the rights granted by the law and possibilities that exist in our country. This will enable us to live in a placid and peaceful atmosphere.

This is why we can state that our actions have been and will continue to be aimed at achieving the reconciliation of the Guatemalan people and, naturally, at overcoming widespread poverty in our country. To achieve this, the issue of integration is fundamental. There is no other way our countries will move forward, unless we break old ties of dependence, which, to some degree, have conditioned the future of the poor of our countries. Within this context, I also want to emphasize, on behalf of the people of Guatemala, that we are a country that pursues integration. We believe our future is closely connected to the future of all the Central American people. With this conviction and the faith we have inherited from all our Central American integrationist predecessors, we are working hard to achieve unprecedented integration mechanisms through the Central American and Latin American integration efforts.

I think the steps that are being taken toward Central American integration are pioneers in Latin America and perhaps many regions of the world. I take great pride in being one of the creators of this. I want to tell you that professionally, the first job that I had was in the area of integration. Also, it hurt me a great deal to see the end of that integration process with a conflict between two brother countries [Salvadoran-Honduran Soccer War in 1969]. Today I think this has been absolutely overcome by the presidents and people of these countries. I want to tell you that, with great optimism, I am witnessing the rebirth of a hope and dream that all Central Americans have had for over 200 years.

Thanks very much to the journalists for working patiently to report the will of the Central American people to unite, to desperately seek peace, and to understand the different communities of the world. We believe it is important for the world to understand the efforts we are making for our people. We also believe this can be done through your reports to the entire world, Messrs. journalists. Thank you very much for your work. I am now willing to answer whatever questions you may have.

[Moderator] We ask the journalists to identify themselves and the medium they work for.

[Barahona] Jorge Barahona, from [words indistinct] Salvador. Mr. President, we have had access to the draft of the Managua Declaration. It states that the Central American presidents condemn terrorism and the illegally armed groups in the region. In this regard, Guatemala is the only country in which guerrillas still exist. How do you view this condemnation against the armed groups?

[Serrano] I consider it satisfactory and fair, because armed groups in Guatemala are senseless. In Guatemala, we have begun a period of democracy and we are struggling against impunity in a clear and decisive manner. A government legitimately elected by the people at the polls is in place, and there are possibilities for those who want to return to the country to do so. This can be seen in the large number of rebel leaders who have already joined the political life. They are working for the mass movement or carrying out political activities, which are fully respected by the government.

We as a government have opened our arms so that this attitude will end and so that the rebels can legalize their status and promote their political needs through peaceful means. As the Oslo Agreement—in which they recognized that political means for a solution to conflicts exist—was signed, I think it is pointless to keep insisting on an armed solution. An armed solution will not change the government's position. I have clearly stated that we are willing to make every legal, reasonable, and feasible effort to attain peace in the country. The fact that they have or have not armed themselves will not change my position. The possibility of ending this conflict will change the living conditions of the Guatemalan people. We must leave this conflict behind and make an effort to rebuild the country and reconcile ourselves.

[Molina] Veronica Molina, Channel Six, Managua, Nicaragua. Mr. President, you referred to Central American integration as a 200-year-old dream and you also spoke of hope. Do you think integration could reach the point where Central America could become a single country?

[Serrano] I am absolutely convinced that this is in our minds. What happens is that there are steps that must first be taken. I believe we have made a great deal of progress in economic integration. Now we must work toward customs integration. We have also decided to begin agreements on the free mobilization of labor. This will enable all Central Americans to move about freely within the Central American countries.

Meanwhile, we have already signed substantive agreements, for example, with El Salvador, Guatemala, and Honduras on the free mobilization of capital. This means that the different factors are already in the process of being liberalized. Undoubtedly, this will lead us to find political similarities and create homogeneous laws so as to avoid great differences or inequalities that will block the integration process.

I am absolutely sure that Central America has a destiny, which is to work together. The longing for the creation of the Central American Community has never been so close, since the break [of the union] in the middle of the last century. I am absolutely sure we are moving along the correct path.

[Jorge] Jorge [last name indistinct] from the "Extravision" newscast of Nicaragua. I have two questions. First, regarding reconciliation and peace in Guatemala, I have learned that in addition to guerrilla groups, there are also groups of civilians in Guatemala armed and directed by the Armed Forces, particularly in the countryside. We would like to know if a process to disarm these forces will be initiated?

Secondly, what will be the political significance to the governments and people of Central America if the U.S. aid to Nicaragua is not resumed? Thank you.

[Serrano] Regarding your first question, I believe you are referring to the Civil Defense Patrols, PAC, or Civil Defense Committees. Gentlemen: Guatemala has a small army compared to the armies of our neighboring countries. For more than 10 years our country has faced an aggression strongly financed by external forces. We are horrified to see the amount of weapons being destroyed here. Who paid for those weapons? Somebody did. Somebody was behind this, and regretfully our people paid with their lives.

Guatemala organized the PAC because it was virtually impossible for the Armed Forces to provide security for the entire population. We can honestly tell you that we have more than 1,000 requests at the Defense Ministry from various towns requesting the organization of PAC's. We have struggled alone and have won that struggle alone. We have clearly said before the national and international community that the PAC's were organized as antiguerrilla instruments, and that is how the Guatemalan people view them. As soon as the guerrilla activity ends and as soon as the fronts that still exist in the country demobilize, we will begin the process of dismantling and demilitarizing the PAC's. Guatemala has no interest in maintaining military bodies of that nature—antiguerrilla bodies—after the guerrillas cease their activities. We have told this to the world.

In fact, included among the agreements we are about to sign with the Guatemalan National Revolutionary Unity, URNG—of which the Guatemalan Government has already accepted the recommendations made by the mediator—is an agreement to permit the verification of the voluntary nature of the PAC's. We are absolutely convinced that its members are participating voluntarily. No one has been forced to be a member of the PAC's. On the contrary, there are requests to create many more of those patrols. We pray to God that the conflict will soon end so we can dismantle these patrols, because they will be unnecessary once the rebel activities end.

Regarding your second question on the suspension of economic aid to Nicaragua, we are against that measure. We realize the measure was adopted by people who do not understand the situation and the transition process in Nicaragua. The transition process can only be understood by those who have experienced it, by those who have been victims of repression, and by those who have lived through difficult times in the region. As someone said to me today, many times the circumstances are understood or known, but the factors are unknown abroad. This does not permit a clear understanding of the situation. I believe the measures are unjust, particularly to the Nicaraguan people who need that aid.

My country has experienced the same problem. What is sad in our case is that the absence of aid Guatemala has faced for more than 10 years has often been the fault of corrupt Guatemalans. They have made a business of filing negative reports abroad, and they do not care if they discredit the country as long as they can live well and travel, even if they must bring up actions that occurred many years ago.

This means that what Nicaragua is experiencing now with this aid suspension has been a daily occurrence in Guatemala for many years. I want to tell the Nicaraguan people, however, that we have overcome this situation. With great effort, we Guatemalans have succeeded in meeting our most pressing needs. For instance, we did not receive a single cent for our economic stabilization program. We established a special tax on the private sector's capital. This tax helped us finance part of our country's stabilization. This is not the case in Nicaragua, where the people are weaker. I want to tell you that in the future our countries must find ways to help ourselves and be aware that our development must not depend on foreign aid but on our own efforts. He who owns more is more powerful, and he who knows more must give a hand to him who owns and knows less and is less powerful. This method has been applied in my country. I am not talking about something we have not lived through, and it has been difficult. We are happy to say that we have overcome these difficulties. We have survived and are prepared to move forward.

[Gomez] Thanks. Good afternoon, Mr. President. Elsa Gomez of LAS PUBLICACIONES DE AMERICA. I would like to know what efforts are being made with the guerrillas in Guatemala to attain the peace you are talking about.

[Serrano] Two great efforts are being made at present in the framework of negotiations. You know, the negotiations, which have lasted three years, have been difficult. This is the oldest conflict in America. I have participated in this conflict and in this reconciliation process since I was opposition leader in my country. I established the initial contacts with the insurgents. I headed the delegation that reached the first agreement with the rebels. As president, I was responsible for convincing the nation of the need to sit down and talk. The negotiations opened in April last year, after 30 years. I am, if you wish, a dreamer of peace and reconciliation, on which I have worked from various positions. For these efforts, I have been exiled and persecuted. My dream has almost come true. We received from the conciliator a proposal to conclude the debate on human rights. Although the government does not agree completely with the conciliator's proposal, we have told him that, because of the

need to expedite the process and solve the conflict, we have accepted the document as he presented it. We hope the insurgents do likewise so this matter can be settled once and for all.

The second aspect is that we told the insurgents to make an overall statement on their decisions. We have received their statement, copies of which have been distributed to large representative groups in the country. Their comments have been requested. Maybe next week or perhaps at the end of the Rio meeting, we hope to prepare an articulate answer that, you can rest assured, will represent the best we can do to incorporate as many of their proposals as possible. We will do our best to interpret the difficult points or those beyond our control. In other words, the process, although difficult, is moving forward and I hope it will soon be completed.

[Reporter] Mr. President, [words indistinct] of BARRICADA. What was discussed during this afternoon's meeting between the Central American presidents and Republican Senator Dave Durenberger? What do you think is missing to attain a reasonable balance of power in the region?

[Serrano] The meeting with Senator Durenberger was of a personal nature. He brought a message from 25 U.S. senators, both liberal and conservative, who meet at the Senate from time to time to pray. The message was one of solidarity and love for the Central American people. This positive stand of Senator Durenberger made it possible for us Central American presidents to present to him both the situations of our countries as we perceive them and what we expect from the U.S. Government, given the spirit in which he came to visit us. Your second question concerned the balance of power. We think the Central American Security Commission's talks should continue to achieve a balance of power in the region. The commission should take into consideration the factors we have discussed at other times, such as territorial expansion, border issues, population matters, and other issues of concern to the security forces in each country. These security forces must be present to offer security and guarantee territorial integrity, as well as to defend the natural resources and fight drug trafficking, one of the problems affecting us so much in the region. I think it is necessary to continue these talks to establish an adequate balance, so that we can have efficient security forces in each country.

[Garcia] Mr. President, I am Ernesto Garcia, from Radio Nicaragua. I would like you to give us more details about the meeting you held today with Nicaraguan labor leaders and with representatives of Latin American labor unions. They were to deliver a document to the presidents.

[Serrano] We received the document. The presidents are going to study it carefully. I want to point out that it was a very positive meeting. They presented a fundamental proposal: that a tripartite dialogue be promoted in Central America between the government, the private sector, and the labor sector of each country. This is an experience we have already had in Guatemala and in other Central American countries. We fully support this proposal. This means that the meeting with the labor groups that visited us was, as I see it, very positive. It should serve to develop state and private-enterprise policies in the entire region.

[Moderator] With this last answer we are closing this news conference by His Excellency the President of Guatemala, Jorge Serrano Elias.

ROC Minister Meets Central American Presidents

OW0606091392 Taipei CNA in English 0744 GMT 6 Jun 92

[Text] Managua, Nicaragua, June 5 (CNA)—Republic of China [ROC] Foreign Minister Chien Fu met with presidents of six Central American nations and prime minister of Belize Friday evening to exchange views on how to further strengthen multilateral ties.

The meeting was on the agenda of the 12th summit meeting of Central American nations, which opened here Friday. The participants included President Jorge Serrano of Guatemala, President Rafael Callejas of Honduras, President Alfredo Cristiani of El Salvador, President Rafael Calderon of Costa Rica, President Guillermo Endara of Panama, and President Violeta Charmorro of the host Nicaragua.

Earlier in the day, Chien met with Nicaraguan Economics Minister Julio Cardenas to exchange opinions on economic cooperation between the ROC and Nicaragua.

Cuba

Elections to Assembly Scheduled for November

LD0506213392 Madrid RNE-1 Radio Network in Spanish 2100 GMT 5 Jun 92

[Text] Cuban diplomatic sources have told RNE that in November, direct elections for the National Assembly will be held on the island for the first time. At a news conference in Madrid this evening, Jose Ramon Fernandez, vice president [of the Council of Ministers] of Cuba, confirmed the direct election of the deputies:

[Begin recording] The deputies—that is, the delegates at the provincial level and the national deputies who form the Assembly, which is the center of power, the foremost organ of power in the country—will be elected by the direct vote of each citizen. [end recording]

Part III of Interview With Fidel Castro

PA0806020192 Managua EL NUEVO DIARIO in Spanish 4 Jun 92 p 4

[Part III of an interview with Cuban President Fidel Castro by Tomas Borge in Havana; date not given—published also on 4 June by Mexico City EXCELSIOR and Madrid El PAIS; Parts I and II published in the 5 June 1992 Latin America DAILY REPORT pages 18-21]

[Text] [Borge] Much has been said, even in leftist circles, about democracy. I hear a lot of talk about that word in Latin America, including Nicaragua. What does democracy mean to you?

[Castro] Tomas, in a nutshell, democracy, as Lincoln defined it, is the government of the people, by the people, and for the people.

To me, democracy entails the defense of all the rights of citizens, including the rights to independence, freedom, national dignity, and honor. To me, democracy means the brotherhood of men.

I say that capitalist bourgeois democracy does not contain any of these elements, because I ask myself how can one talk of democracy in a country where a minority has immense wealth and the rest have nothing. What equality and brotherhood can exist between the beggar and the millionaire? I think our system is more democratic than any other; it is without comparison much more democratic than the system in the United States.

[Borge] You are saying your system is more democratic than any other? Why?

[Castro] I believe democracy can only exist in socialism. I believe the supreme form of democracy will be communism, but we have not reached that point yet.

We look at the situation in Latin America, where the more people talk about democracy, the more there are shantytowns, dozens of millions of illiterate people, millions of unemployed persons, and tens and tens of millions of people who go without medical attention. Owing to the measures of the IMF and similar institutions, the situation has grown worse instead of better. There are countries in Latin America where 10 percent of the people earn more than 50 percent of the national income. How can one talk of democracy under those conditions?

We have found our form of democratic expression and believe it suits our conditions ideally. Its efficacy has been proven for over 30 years because I think no country could have resisted the embargo, threats, aggressions, and tremendous blows entailed by the crumbling of the socialist camp and the disappearance of the Soviet Union if the people were not united and aware of our democracy.

[Borge] Different news circles, even leaders of progressive parties, talk of the need to broaden democracy in Cuba. I think they mean that groups that do not share the views of the Cuban Government can organize and have their own means of expression.

[Castro] Many people are unaware of how democracy functions in our country. I am not going to say that our democracy is perfect. We cannot afford to commit errors of idealism within our current situation that entails more risks than ever before. We are not going to play with the independence and security of the country. We are not going to play with the revolution by idealizing circumstances and ways of leadership and political organization that are impossible under the circumstances we are experiencing. However, despite all of that, we are making great efforts to improve our political system and our democracy and we will take steps in that direction.

We are not opposed to those who disagree with our opinions. In Cuba, we are waging a great struggle between the nation—the people of Cuba—and imperialism, and that is what prevails. There are no third stands here. Here the people either support the revolution or are against it. There are no in-between stands.

That the economic blockade against our country should end; that the U.S. threats against us should end; that the aggressions should end; that the campaigns against Cuba should end; that the war against Cuba should end? [sentence as published] Under different conditions, we could bring up in theory, and even in practice, another form of political leadership in our country.

[Borge] What efforts are being made to improve the political system in Cuba?

[Castro] We are improving the people's power. We have created the People's Council at a level that is closer to the rank and file than the municipalities, and these are made up of the delegates of the districts. These People's Councils have tremendous power. They are made up of delegates that have been nominated and elected directly by the people. The mass organizations and the main centers of production and service participate in these councils.

We believe that the most important step we are taking is that of directly electing the deputies of the National Assembly, which is the main branch of the state.

[Borge] Can persons who are not members of the Communist Party of Cuba [PCC] be candidates?

[Castro] Yes, of course. There are many delegates who are not members of the PCC. Many do not realize that in our case it is not the party that nominates the candidate, but it is the people, the citizens, who nominate and directly elect their candidates. What other country of the world has a more democratic system than that?

[Borge] Fidel, concerning the political development of Latin America, do you feel it is making progress, it has been set back, or it is stagnant? How would you describe the outlook for the leftists in our hemisphere?

Latin America Goes Back

[Castro] If the situation in Latin America at the time the Alliance for Progress was created is compared with the current situation, it can be seen that today's situation is much more serious. All economic and social parameters are worse.

First of all, the present population is more than twice as large as that which existed when the Alliance for Progress was created. There is twice as much poverty and twice as many bad neighborhoods. The sanitation situation is worse. The population's income is lower. Unemployment is greater. Instead of the $20 billion that the Alliance for Progress spectacularly offered at that time to help these reforms and alleviate Latin America's problems, we now owe approximately $450 billion.

I would also say that the lefists are experiencing their worst time in Latin America. They are experiencing their moment of greatest confusion, which can be explained by the tremendous confusion created in the world by the events that originated and developed in the Soviet Union. This was a very strong blow to the leftist progressive forces in the political, ideological, and moral fields. I think the leftists are beginning to recover from this trauma. Total recovery is still a long way ahead, however.

[Borge] You have referred to Latin American integration a number of times. What do you think of the process and the so-called Bush Initiative?

[Castro] Look, the Bush Initiative is not an attempt to integrate Latin American or a Latin American integration factor. It is an attempt to incorporate Latin America into the U.S. economy because, precisely as the result of the struggle among the big economic powers now emerging, the United States more than ever regards Latin America as an exclusive hunting ground, so to speak, for its interests.

The United States is not proposing a free trade agreement with all of Latin America but with one country at a time so the Latin American governments cannot unite with one another through negotiation. This has nothing to do with the integrationist ideas of Bolivar, Marti, and all those who thought of Latin America's integration, all those who at present think about this integration honestly. The integration and union of Latin America can be conceived and thought of only independently and within the framework of its own interests. Latin America has no honorable and independent choice other than economic integration. Otherwise, there will be absolutely no future for Latin America.

Escalona Convenes ANPP Session for 10 Jul

FL0506132192 Havana Radio Rebelde Network in Spanish 1100 GMT 5 Jun 92

[Text] Juan Escalona, president of the National Assembly of the People's Government [ANPP], has convened the ANPP deputies to hold, beginning on 10 July, the 11th regular session of the third legislature. Escalona also gave instructions to inform the appropriate state entities and organizations of the call to the meetings and to have it published in the official gazette.

The ANPP has to hold two sessions every year as established in the Cuban Constitution.

Commentary on ANPP To Modify Constitution

FL0606142492 Havana Radio Progreso Network in Spanish 1000 GMT 6 Jun 92

[Station commentary by Nestro Nunez]

[Text] It has been announced that the next National Assembly of the People's Government [ANPP] sessions has among its principle tasks the modification of the Constitution, which will give the country a lay [laico] characteristic and will establish direct elections for all levels of government bodies.

These measures are not being implemented because they were recommended by the Fourth Congress of the Communist Party of Cuba—these deeds stop being important when they are carried out—but without a doubt and in light of Cuba's situation, with the additional difficulties we are going through and Washington's growing hostility, to implement them is an example of bold politics and revolutionary confidence in the people.

Because without a doubt, many people are talking of changes, of the need to reform. But what they do not do is contribute to the creation of a favorable climate so that the country, by itself, with its own intelligence and initiative, forges the necessary measures to perfect its democracy and the road which it has decided to follow.

I think it is logical to think that someone who hopes that someone else, who is constantly being threatened, will dedicate themselves to transforming their home instead of defending it, as a priority task, is either crazy or thinks his possible victim is crazy. Because the normal response would be for us to forget everything that has anything to

do with the way we live, to later think about how we are living, the lifestyle we could have, how we are going to advance in the future?

Nevertheless and despite current [word indistinct], and precisely because we believe that working for improvement is a defense, while we are trying to survive, our system is improved as much as possible and it makes the journey more organized and better. No one believes the premise that what we do is perfect or the finished product. We know that life will continue making changes, and as much as possible and in accordance with our own will, the necessary corrections will be made.

What do we hope for? Just that they leave us alone to create in peace. That the right to make and chose the paths that the majority wants is not taken from us by force. That no one outside the country tells us what we have to do, or even less exercises force or blackmail in an effort to make us do it. Of course, those that speak so much of democracy, without wanting to admit that they are talking about an imperfect model, should understand that among the principles of democracy is precisely the principle of respect for others.

Bush Supports Bill on Tightening Embargo

FL0506153292 Havana Radio Rebelde Network in Spanish 1155 GMT 5 Jun 92

["Our Opinion" commentary by Orlando Contreras]

[Text] A House of Representatives Committee recently took another step in tightening even more, if possible, the embargo which the United States has maintained against Cuba for more than three decades. The bill, presented by New Jersey Democratic Representative Robert Torricelli in February, empowers President Bush to prohibit foreign subsidiaries of U.S. companies from trading with Cuba.

This bill, totally contrary to international laws, accepts as valid the extra territoriality of the U.S. law, in flagrant violation of the sovereignty and the laws and ordinances of respective countries. A high-level British Government official said months ago, when this bill was proposed, that the UK is sovereign in its internal decisions and that the UK will trade with whomever it considers advantageous for British interests. Other countries closely allied with the United States also consider these pressures unacceptable. These pressures will be enforced if the bill were passed in future committees.

The bill, presented by Representative Torricelli in February, would stop commercial preference, help, or assistance of any kind to those governments who facilitate credit or any benefit or commercial preference to Cuba. According to Torricelli, the political terrorist organization, the Cuban American National Foundation, with ties to upper levels of the U.S. Government as well as with drug traffickers, the Central Intelligence Agency, and banks that have amassed fortunes laundering drug money. I repeat that Torricelli and this foundation think that the tightening of the embargo will help to strangle the Cuban revolution.

It is understandable how a gang of Mafia thugs has made the counterrevolution in Florida another one of their many fictitious businesses; the same as the function of this pigheaded representative. In other words, it is understood they support it. But it is more serious when it is understood that the U.S. Government supports this bill, despite it being a law which violates international laws, which encroaches on the self-determination and sovereignty of other nations, even U.S. allies. None of this is surprising.

All in all, imperialism is a concrete reality of the present, not just of the past. With regards to this, here is another example. In Rio de Janeiro, there is a virtual consensus to sign the UN Treaty on Climate Changes, which took 15 months of arduous negotiations [to achieve], and it is not a radical document for nothing. It is hoped with this treaty that the industrialized countries, who produce the most pollution will maintain the emanation of carbon dioxide and other substances that poison and heat the atmosphere at 1990 levels through the year 2000.

The United States—and these are UN statistics—is responsible for 25 percent of all the carbon dioxide that is in the atmosphere. It is by far the country that pollutes the most. Last night, in a nationwide televised news conference in the United States, Bush said that this treaty, referring to the climate treaty, could cost many Americans their jobs, and he added—I quote his words—I will not forget the American family and if in Rio de Janeiro, they do not want to understand this, then tough luck. A typical declaration of imperial power, encouraged by petty political interests in an election year.

Is it strange then that Bush also supports the Torricelli Bill, which means extending Yankee laws throughout the world in the most classic imperialist style?

U.S. Contradictory Stance on Ecology Noted

PA0306211092 Havana Radio Havana Cuba in Spanish 0100 GMT 3 Jun 92

["Our America" commentary read by Angel Ferrera]

[Text] During his electoral campaign and being aware of the concern of many U.S. citizens on the matter, George Bush did not miss any chance of describing himself as the environmental President. Now, many public opinion sectors in his country rightly note he has his own way of being an ecologist. There is no doubt about that. In his more recent statements, the U.S. President has been shown to have a distorted way of interpreting and acting on matters dealing with protecting the environment. All of this emerges on the wake of U.S. participation at the UN summit meeting on the environment and development to begin shortly in Rio de Janeiro. Regarding this summit meeting, Bush has established clearly that his

administration will not sign agreements setting limits on the emission of polluting gases.

The United States and the industrialized nations, in general, are the chief producers of carbon dioxide, a dangerous atmospheric pollutant that causes global warming. Although Bush knows his country does not escape the consequences of this phenomenon, he refuses to sign a document reducing the emission of those gases to avoid harming the major U.S. industrial sectors during a time of recession. These political considerations are very appropriate for the reelection period, some may think. They are not totally in the wrong. The president, however, is also thinking of the votes from the ecology sector, which is always attacking him with harsh words, and all the more so after he announced the stance his government will adopt at the Rio summit.

To deflect serious criticism on the matter, he announced that he will increase U.S. aid to protect forests in developing countries. Although the offer is pending congressional approval, in a year of budget difficulties, Bush proposed a yearly increase of $150 million to protect the forests of poor countries. He also called on the other industrialized nations to increase their monetary aid in that direction.

That notwithstanding, the U.S. President reiterated he will not sign the treaty guaranteeing the poorest countries the right to preserve their flora, fauna, and natural resources, namely the biodiversity agreement, one of the fundamental documents to be approved at the Rio summit. The U.S. stance knowingly boycotts the biodiversity agreement because the major transnational companies from the United States and other highly developed nations reap large benefits from the flora, fauna, and natural resources of others. The developed nations possess the necessary technology to manufacture medicine and chemical compounds, using plants and animals from all over the world, and make enormous profits.

With everything that has been said regarding the U.S. stance, we can draw conclusions even before the start of the summit meeting. The major contradictions between the developed and developing nations once again come to the fore.

Suspension of U.S. Aid to Nicaragua Viewed

PA0606032392 Havana Radio Havana Cuba in Spanish 0100 GMT 5 Jun 92

["Our America" commentary by Manolo Ortega]

[Text] The Central American presidents are getting ready for a summit meeting to discuss the economic situation and poverty of the area. Meanwhile, the host, Nicaragua, has just been informed of the U.S. decision to suspend $100 million in aid.

It has been said the suspension is temporary, but the fact is that the U.S. Congress acceded to a request from U.S. Senator Jesse Helms. Senator Helms has criticized the Nicaraguan Government because of the alleged slow process of returning property seized by the past government and because, Helms said, Sandinism still controls the Nicaragua Armed Forces and other security corps.

In addition to criticizing the alleged Sandinist influence on the current government, Senator Helms has also blamed President Violeta Chamorro for the slow way in which the property of approximately 200 North Americans is being returned—property that was confiscated during the Sandinist revolution.

Regional analysts have been surprised by the U.S. decision. They believe that while it is true the property return process is not going fast, it is not a convincing reason to implement such a drastic measure because property returns is not the only matter to be resolved by the Nicaraguan Government.

The demobilization and disarming of former counterrevolutionaries and supporters of the previous government have consumed time and created obvious and severe problems for the president, who must still handle periodic confrontations between groups.

There is another problem, perhaps the main problem: The tremendous poverty and the critical economic situation of the nation. This issue carries so much weight in the country's social and political context, it keeps the government busy and tense continually.

It is true that after two years in power, the Nicaraguan Government has been unable to free its people from poverty and tension because of many diverse problems. Peace, which is precarious, and the checking of a galloping hyperinflation could be viewed as only partial accomplishments when we consider the fact that unemployment affects 50 percent of the citizens of working age and that the standard of living of the majority of the people has dropped drastically.

It has been rightly said that 79 percent of Nicaraguans, who live in poverty, find it difficult to endure the adjustment program that has been imposed to secure economic and currency stability.

This is compounded by constant harassment from political forces within the government that are demanding the dismissal of Army Commander General Humberto Ortega. These forces have gone as far as issuing a parliamentary summons. These demands have been rejected by President Chamorro.

The president of the Nicaraguan Assembly, Alfredo Cesar, is the main instigator of the hostility various political groups are demonstrating, not only against the Army commander, but also against other Sandinists accused by Cesar of having their share of power and exerting influence on the executive branch.

These are also the grounds for the recent U.S. decision to suspend its financial aid to Nicaragua. The idea is to end all vestiges of Sandinism and [words indistinct] that are a strictly Nicaraguan affair.

The suspension of U.S. aid will have serious repercussions on Nicaragua. The government has admitted it is the poorest country in Latin America after Haiti as it has suffered war losses of more than $12 billion.

Havana Radio, TV Reports on Events in Haiti

Troops To Stifle 'Protests'

FL0406010592 Havana Radio Rebelde Network in Spanish 2300 GMT 3 Jun 92

[Text] The OAS today reiterated its support for the return of deposed President Jean-Bertrand Aristide, while simultaneously rejecting Marc Bazin's virtual appointment as prime minister of Haiti. OAS Secretary General Joao Baena Soares termed the proposal of a new prime minister an extension of the coup d'etat, the objective of which is to render null and void the expression of the people's will that carried Aristide to the presidency.

Meanwhile, the de facto government today ordered Army units to circulate through Port-au-Prince's main streets because of the protests generated by the government's naming of Bazin. While the coupists are trying to gain legitimacy by appointing Bazin, who is to be confirmed tomorrow by the two chambers of Parliament, Port-au-Prince and provincial towns are experiencing a situation of terror. Every morning, inhabitants find bodies of civilians murdered by the military, who, furthermore, devote themselves to raping women and children and committing thefts, and murdering alleged Aristide supporters.

Deputies To Meet 9 Jun

FL0606011392 Havana Radio Rebelde Network in Spanish 2300 GMT 5 Jun 92

[Text] Haiti's House of Deputies has been summoned to sit on 9 June to study the request to ratify Marc Bazin as prime minister of Haiti. The Senate yesterday ratified Bazin at a Senate session attended by only 14 of the 27 senators because of the boycott by the legislators from the National Front for Change and Democracy, according to local observers.

For his part, Bazin has presented his economic program to the press and has promised to create 100,000 jobs in one year, as well as to build roads, schools, dispensaries, and other social projects. The former World Bank official and former finance minister under Duvalier did not explain where he is going to get the funds to make good on the promises of his ambitious program.

U.S. Plan To Send Troops

FL0606163992 Havana Radio Reloj Network in Spanish 1607 GMT 6 Jun 92

[Text] THE NEW YORK TIMES quoted a high-level official as saying that the United States is currently proposing to send troops to Haiti as a way to solve the political crisis in this nation. The newspaper said that the plan would also accomplish the goal of getting a compromise from the Haitian de facto authorities regarding the return to power of deposed President Jean-Bertrand Aristide.

According to the source cited by the newspaper, the so-called international peace force would act under OAS supervision and the possibility of its formation is being considered by Latin American and Caribbean leaders. The official cited by THE NEW YORK TIMES added that the White House initiative to intervene militarily in the Caribbean island would involve the end of the trade embargo on Port-au-Prince imposed by the OAS following the coup against Aristide's government.

'Prominent' Priest Arrested

FL0806013592 Havana Tele Rebelde and Cuba Vision Networks in Spanish 0000 GMT 8 Jun 92

[Text] Haitian coupist government forces have arrested (Gilles Danroc), a prominent priest close to deposed President Jean-Bertrand Aristide. Father (Danroc's) arrest is part of the escalation in repression by the authorities against those who are in favor of Aristide's return. (Danroc) is the fourth member of the clergy to be arrested by the military over the past week.

The priest, who is a member of the Dominican Order, is the coordinator of a Catholic human rights group that supports President Aristide. Port-au-Prince media sources point out that priests and students are considered by the current Haitian Government to be the main groups supporting the struggle for the return of Aristide.

Haiti

Further on Bazin Appointment as Prime Minister

Bazin Outlines Policies

FL0506181992 Port-au-Prince Radio Soleil Network in Creole 1100 GMT 5 Jun 92

[Excerpts] [Passage omitted] According to many observers who were following the debates, yesterday's session at the Senate looked more like a statement on the general policy of the prime minister-designate even before the choice had been ratified. The committee asked Mr. Bazin many questions on Haiti's political and economic situation and what would be the best solution to these problems. Concerning the attitude of the OAS and the United States regarding his being designated as prime minister, the leader of the Movement for the Establishment of Democracy in Haiti [MIDH] stated: The international community has taken a good position because it says it is defending democracy in Haiti.

Mr. Bazin announced that he would resume the negotiations which had been initiated with the OAS so they can reach a solution favorable to the interests of the entire country. The Villa d'Accueil Agreement is not a closed

door, but a window open to the negotiations which will resume between Haiti and the OAS, according to Mr. Marc Bazin who pointed out that there are many people in the country who do not view the political realities of Haiti in the same light as the international community. [passage omitted]

When asked on how he plans to solve the problem of the Haitian gourde that has been devaluating more and more in comparison with the U.S. dollar, the prime minister-designate spoke of the necessity for Haiti to reduce its expenses and to increase government revenue. The government will take proper measures to collect all the money that taxpayers owe to it. Prime Minister-Designate Marc L. Bazin stated that the government's money will not be misused and it is for the service of the country that it will be used. [passage omitted]

Haiti's biggest problem is an ideological struggle that has never stopped wreaking havoc upon it. On that score, the MIDH leader thinks it is time to put an end to fighting for ideology because the people are starving to death, they are unemployed, they do not have money, they do not receive medical care, and cannot send their children to school. Mr. Bazin also believes that he will win this big battle thanks to the participation of everyone in the country. He further said that no country as divided as Haiti can resist the various kinds of pressures that are being exerted on it. [passage omitted]

The prime minister-designate announced that before long his government will try to help the enterprises that were the victims of the embargo. It will also meet with the employers and the unions in order to look for a raise for the industrial sector. The next government also plans to look into the electrical power in the county and the creation of a program of social housing not to mention a program of reforestation and numerous other projects that can allow over 100,000 people to obtain jobs in the country during the next 12 months, according to the explanations provided by Prime Minister-Designate Marc L. Bazin. [passage omitted]

Whereas the Senate has ratified the choice of Marc Louis Bazin as the prime minister of the consensus government whose mission will be to consolidate democracy in Haiti, the assembly of the Lower Chamber has handed the file on the prime minister-designate over to a parliamentary committed made up of 11 members who represent all the political parties that comprise the House of Deputies except the Socialist Group who thinks a true consensus must be accomplished before it can provide a verdict on that choice. Therefore, the Socialist Group of the House of Deputies said in a memorandum that it has taken note of the choice of Mr. Bazin as the prime minister of the consensus government while recalling that its participation in the Villa d'Accueil Agreement was justified by its concern to test the honesty of the participants and their willingness to help the Haitian nation find a favorable solution to the crisis to the satisfaction of all sectors of the national life and the international community. The group explained that it remains open to the continuation of a wider dialogue that must result in a real consensus.

The 11-deputy committee working on the Marc Bazin file will begin meeting as early as today so they can formulate a work schedule before they present a report before the Lower Chamber which will have to say whether it agrees or not with the choice of Mr. Bazin as the prime minister of the consensus government. [passage omitted]

Deputy Criticizes Choice

FL0506142492 Port-au-Prince Radio Tropic FM in Creole 1220 GMT 5 Jun 92

[Text] Deputy Duly Brutus, a member of the socialist bloc within the parliament, thinks the process which led to the designation of Marc L. Bazin as prime minister does not respect the spirit of the Villa d'Accueil Agreement. Mr. Brutus says he has a moral responsibility toward Rene Theodore, who was chosen by President Aristide as prime minister-designate within the scope of the Washington Agreement.

[Begin Brutus recording] Given the way the choice was made, the process did not respect the spirit of the Villa d'Accueil Agreement. I would like this choice to be made [begins speaking in French] while taking into account national and international realities. This is our opinion, and this is the reason why [resumes speaking in Creole] we intend to propose today before the assembly of the House of Deputies the position of the socialist bloc, that is we would like to resume dialogue on that question because we think the choice was not made... [pauses] the conditions as to the choice of the prime minister were not quite met. [Words indistinct] normal situation, an already exceptional situation in the country. As we have spoken of consensus, we then believe that what is important is that an effort was already made through the Villa d'Accueil... [pauses] through the Washington Agreement. A second step was taken through the Villa d'Accueil Agreement. We think it is not important to try to care about linking those two agreements. [end recording]

Deputy Duly Brutus made these statements on 4 June on Tele-Haiti.

Appointment 'An Insult'

FL0406220392 Port-au-Prince Radio Metropole in French 1600 GMT 4 Jun 92

[Excerpts] The appointment of Marc Bazin is considered an insult by the ousted president's partisans in Haiti. If the candidacy of Marc Bazin is ratified, all doors for a possible return to power of Father Aristide will be closed definitively, say representatives of the National Front for Change and Democracy, FNCD. [passage omitted] The FNCD believes that any government emerging from the tripartite agreement will be forced to resort to permanent repression.

Reconstruction Movement Backs Washington Accord

FL0506144092 Port-au-Prince Radio Metropole in French 1300 GMT 5 Jun 92

[Text] The National Reconstruction Movement, MRN [headed by Rene Theodore], has reaffirmed its support of the Washington Agreement. In a statement, MRN says that the temptation to put into operation a traditional politicking method can do nothing but aggravate the general crisis in the nation and impose dangerous and pointless ordeals on the people.

Conacom Not To Support Consensus Government

FL0506164192 Port-au-Prince Radio Metropole in French 1100 GMT 5 Jun 92

[Text] The National Congress of Democratic Movements Party, Conacom, will not participate in the consensus government resulting from the tripartite agreement. For Conacom, any consensus prime minister must be appointed by elected President Aristide. Such an appointment, according to the party, will make possible a real compromise solution. Conacom thinks that the solution is contained within the Washington Agreement. Conacom reiterates its ambition to remain in legal and peaceful opposition.

'National Consensus' Called Political Maneuvering

FL0506150292 Port-au-Prince Radio Metropole in French 1300 GMT 5 Jun 92

[Text] The Movement for the Organization of the Country [MOP] has rejected any compromise which does not fundamentally take into account the willingness freely shown by the people. This is what the MOP says in a press release signed by Max Andre. The MOP believes that the time has come to put an end to these political maneuvers hypocritically called national consensus, national union because, as the MOP says, they are always a simple repetition of the same old historical alliances to counter the progress of the masses.

Human Rights Group Protests Repatriation Decision

FL0406155992 Port-au-Prince Radio Soleil Network in Creole 1100 GMT 4 Jun 92

[Text] The last point we have in the local news today is that the Lafontant Joseph Center for the Promotion of Human Rights has asked the U.S. President to review his decision to repatriate the Haitian refugees. In a letter dated 2 June, the executive committee of the Lafontant Joseph Center states how surprised it was to hear that U.S. officials have decided to repatriate all Haitians intercepted at sea. According to the executive committee, the entire world is indignant at this decision because it is poverty that has forced these people to flee their country.

The Lafontant Joseph Center acknowledges that it is for economic reasons that most of the Haitian refugees are forced to leave their country aboard small boats. However, it points out that it is mainly the 30 September coup which has created this situation of despair. If there had not been a 30 September coup, there would not be economic refugees today, according to the executive committee of the Lafontant Joseph Center that asks U.S. officials to look at the root of the problem if they want really to solve it.

Students Demonstrate To Seek Aristide Return

FL0406182792 Port-au-Prince Radio Soleil Network in Creole 1100 GMT 4 Jun 92

[Report by correspondent Pierre Eugene Lundy from Jeremie]

[Text] Again yesterday, there were powerful protest movements at several public high schools in the capital including Lycee Petion, Lycee Marie-Jeanne, and the Carrefour public high school. The police intervened once again to prevent the continuation of these student movements.

There was also chaos yesterday afternoon at Lycee des Jeunes Filles, the public high school for girls in Jeremie where the students demonstrated to demand the return of the deposed president. Two public high schools in this city are not open this morning [3 June]. Let us listen to Pierre Eugene Lundy for more details.

[Begin Lundy recording] A movement was triggered off at Lycee des Jeunes Filles at approximately 1600. Everyone could see that the students of this institution began a demonstration in favor of the return of the deposed president. However, that happened only in the classrooms and on the balcony of the school. This movement caused a real panic in Jeremie when the police intervened in the area to control the situation. The institution was virtually besieged and was under the control of the police for over three hours. The students and the teachers stayed in the school during all that time. We must tell you that Jeremie was chaotic and the population, the parents, and the friends of the students made their way toward Lycee des Jeunes Filles. When they arrived there, they could not communicate with the students because the military, who surrounded the area, were tough and rigid. They used tear gas to [word indistinct] this group which was in disarray.

Finally, several students' parents, who were very worried, calmed down at approximately 2000 when the students of Lycee des Jeunes Filles were able to leave the institution for their homes thanks to the intervention of the departmental director, Rigaud Pierrot.

We will end this report by telling you that on that occasion the police arrested Milot Pierre, a teacher at Lycee des Jeunes Filles. He was released after a few minutes. We are following this situation very carefully because today both Lycee Nord Alexis and Lycee des Jeunes Filles did not hold classes. [end recording]

We will point out that the movement going on at Lycee des Jeunes Filles in Jeremie began in the afternoon of 2 June and that the high school did not hold classes. We do not know whether it is possible for Lycee des Jeunes Filles in Jeremie to resume classes.

Military, Armed Civilians Search Deputies' Homes

FL0506163292 Port-au-Prince Radio Tropic FM in Creole 1220 GMT 5 Jun 92

[Text] Deputy Patrick Norzeus and Deputy Mitrany Victor were faced with a great dilemma yesterday [4 June] when they saw that their homes were surrounded by military and armed civilians. According to Deputy Patrick Norzeus, these armed individuals said that they were looking for weapons and grenades.

Jamaica

Bazin Appointment Deemed 'Quite Unacceptable'

FL0506002792 Bridgetown CANA in English 2129 GMT 4 Jun 92

[Text] Kingston, Jamaica, June 4, CANA—Jamaica has rejected as "quite unacceptable" the latest moves by the de facto government of Haiti to prevent the reinstatement as president of Jean-Bertrand Aristide, toppled in a coup last September.

In an obvious move to further circumvent international efforts to reinstate Aristide, Haitian leaders Tuesday [2 June] named 60 year-old former World Bank official Marc Bazin as prime minister, as part of a plan to create a "consensus" government. Bazin was a big loser in the 1990 presidential election swept by Aristide.

In a radio interview here, Foreign Affairs Minister David Coore dismissed the appointment of Bazin out of hand and said a trade embargo, sanctioned by the Organisation of American States (OAS) following last year's coup, should continue.

"We are not prepared to countenance any manoeuvre of that kind. We have made it clear, Caricom (Caribbean Community) countries have made it clear and OAS countries have made it clear, that constitutional government 'must be returned to Haiti' Coore said. Nothing short of an agreement in principle for Aristide's return will satisfy us that Haiti is back on track for constitutional and democratic government, and until that happens, as far as we are concerned and I think as far as OAS is concerned, the embargo will continue," added the foreign minister.

Regarding suggestions that the time may be drawing near for a military intervention, given the widespread perception that the embargo had not been as effective as planned, Coore reiterated the regional position that a military option would "have to be a last resort." However, he suggested that there would be justification for a United States military intervention in Haiti, if it is found that narcotic traffickers who find the impoverished nation useful as a transit point, are providing the government with funding. The suggestion came against the background of what Coore said was uncertainty as to where the money was coming from for the Haitian regime to import badly needed goods in breach of the embargo.

"Some members of the small economic oligarchy may have funds abroad which they may be prepared to use for these smuggled purchases. How long that will continue I don't know. But one thing is clear: if the country is cut off from the means of earning foreign exchange, and nobody is lending them any money, then, unless they can find some other kind of funding, sooner or later the whole thing will come to a halt," Coore said.

Caricom, Coore emphasised, lacked the capability "either individually or collectively" to conduct a military intervention. Also, "the OAS, unlike the United Nations, does not have peacekeeping forces, so obviously a military intervention would be something either put together ad hoc or (through) some individual country which took the lead. We don't like the idea of a military intervention if it possibly can be avoided, but the situation may degenerate to the point where it is unavoidable," said Coore. He conceded that the embargo had been breached "to some extent" and had not been totally effective.

"Trade embargoes are tricky and difficult things to implement and enforce, particularly in a situation where although countries of the hemisphere were rhetorically united on it, one knew there were one or two countries that had their own private reservations," he said. In addition, he said other potential suppliers of goods to Haiti, including European countries, were not totally committed to the embargo. But despite the problems, Coore argued that the embargo had achieved some success.

"It has prevented most trade from taking place and this has hurt very badly," he said. "We have to remember that embargo or no embargo, 70 percent of the people of Haiti live in dire poverty, and the difference to them is hardly noticeable, where it probably hurts most severely is the middle class. These are probably some of the people who are trying to escape," he said, an apparent reference to thousands of people who have fled Haiti in small boats since Aristide's overthrow, creating an international refugee crisis.

Guatemala

Serrano, Menem Sign Joint Communique 3 Jun

PA0606004492 Guatemala City SIGLO VEINTIUNO in Spanish 4 Jun 92 p 3

[Text] On the evening of 3 June, Argentine President Carlos Saul Menem and Guatemalan President Jorge Serrano Elias signed at the National Palace a 30-point joint communique voicing their common interest to improve bilateral relations in various areas. They also expressed their positions on aspects of world and regional interest.

Among the points agreed, the creation of a Bilateral Argentine- Guatemalan Cooperation Commission should be emphasized. This commission will be directed and coordinated by the Foreign Relations Ministries of both countries.

The commission will be tasked with consolidating and developing economic, commercial, financial, educational, scientific, technical, energy, cultural, tourism, and air transportation cooperation, as well as fighting international drug trafficking.

The presidents also voiced their desire to consider and resolve the current political and social situations in Venezuela, Peru, and Haiti, within the framework of respect for democracy and legal and constitutional principles.

An important part of the communique is the view of President Menem on the economic situation of Central America. He ratified the objective of his administration to expand cooperation and contribute to the economic development of the region.

Concerning the particular case of Guatemala, both presidents emphasized the need to create a financial mechanism to promote exports and imports.

Although the joint communique includes many topics of great mutual interest, the exchange of information and experience in the area of privatization, especially regarding the railroad system, should be highlighted. Also worth mentioning is the cooperation in the port sector to modernize and improve services.

Finally, the creation of a tourism subcommission, which will operate within the framework of the aforementioned bilateral commission, should be mentioned. The goal of this subcommission will be to improve contacts between authorities from both countries to facilitate and increase tourism between Argentina and Guatemala.

Nicaragua

Lacayo Urges Groups To Push For U.S. Aid

PA0806000292 Managua Radio Sandino in Spanish 1200 GMT 6 Jun 92

[Statement by Presidency Minister Antonio Lacayo at the Camoapa Cattle Fair in Boaco Department; date not given—recorded]

[Text] The time has come for all of us to speak clearly and to visit the U.S. Embassy to voice our support for the aid the U.S. Government has given Nicaragua. We must convey our gratitude to that country for the aid it has given us and reject those minority sectors that seem to be spreading the idea we do not want the aid. The time has come to close ranks. The time has come for delegations, even if they are small, to visit the United States. They should meet with the U.S. Congress, Senate, and other authorities to tell them we are thankful for the aid; that we want the aid; and that we do not want the aid to be stopped, conditioned, delayed, or cut. Look at the efforts we have made to reintroduce Nicaraguan meat into the U.S. market. We are also close to achieving that victory.

Deputies To Send Mission to Washington on Aid

PA0606004392 Managua BARRICADA in Spanish 4 Jun 92 pp 1,7

[Excerpts] The 52 deputies who signed a document supporting the international efforts of President Violeta Chamorro and demanding the U.S. Congress expedite the delivery of aid to Nicaragua will send a mission to Washington to deliver the document at the Capitol.

The announcement was made on 3 June by Ivan Salvador Madriz, a liberal parliamentarian from the so-called "center group," at the end of a hectic session of the National Assembly. During this session, Assembly President Alfredo Cesar refused to include the request by President Chamorro for a pronouncement and the declaration signed by the majority in the agenda.

The document was drafted on 2 June and was initially signed by 50 deputies, including 39 Sandinists and 11 deputies from the "center." On 4 June, two more deputies signed: William Frech, secretary of the Assembly leadership; and Jose Gabriel Moya, Luis Humberto Guzman's (who is traveling in Sweden) alternate. [passage omitted]

The highlight of the 4 June Assembly session was the point on summoning Army Chief General Humberto Ortega.

Cesar announced a note had been sent to the Supreme Court of Justice describing as "inadmissible" the request for an amparo filed by Ortega. He also mentioned the Managua Court of Appeals ruling, which was "surprisingly efficient," that processed his request and demanded he not be summoned by the Assembly until the court issues a ruling.

Although it is "inadmissible," Cesar said in his note that he would abide by the court's decision, and therefore, Ortega will not be "questioned in absentia" as it had been announced a few days ago. [passage omitted]

H. Ortega Letter to Chamorro on Summons

PA0506023792 Managua Sistema Nacional de Television Network in Spanish 0100 GMT 4 Jun 92

[Letter from General Humberto Ortega, commander in chief of the Sandinist People's Army, to President Violeta Barrios de Chamorro in Managua on 2 June]

[Text] Dear President: In your letter addressed to the president of the National Assembly dated 28 May 1992, you reiterated your willingness to collaborate with the National Assembly to help clarify and solve different aspects of our national life and, thus, consolidate the process for the construction of democracy.

As the amparo recourse I filed in light of the nonproceeding summons for questioning presented to me has already been processed through the corresponding legal channels, I now feel more eager to contribute to the ambiance of this national debate our country so badly needs.

With the purpose of collaborating with the National Assembly, I request your mediation so that I am allowed to appear before the National Assembly's plenum to report on Army actions in general, and, in particular, on the conflict situations that have taken place over the last few months throughout the national territory.

I would also like to take advantage of the opportunity to answer any questions the members of the National Assembly may wish to ask.

[Signed] Sincerely yours, General Humberto Ortega Saavedra.

Panama

Upcoming 11 Jun Bush Visit Sparks Protests

Vice President Cited

PA0606030192 Panama City Radio KW Continente in Spanish 1200 GMT 5 Jun 92

[Report by Roberto Rolando Rodriguez]

[Text] President George Bush has fulfilled all promises of economic cooperation with the Republic of Panama, according to Vice President Guillermo Ford.

Ford has said that those who want to demonstrate during the U.S. president's visit may do so as long as it is done peacefully. He rejected statements by those who question U.S. economic aid, saying they are not sticking to the truth.

[Begin Ford recording] First, I believe we cannot take away anyone's right to criticize and protest, as long as it is done peacefully. Second, I would like them to specify where the United States has failed to keep its promise. The $420 million President Bush promised has been received and we have said so on countless occasions. Credits for $500 million have been authorized through the Export-Import Bank, therefore I do not see where the United States has failed to fulfill its promise. Sometimes there are people with other interests in mind. [end recording]

Vicitms Group Plans Protest

PA0406155792 Panama City LA ESTRELLA DE PANAMA in Spanish 4 Jun 92 p 1

[Report by James Aparicio]

[Text] Isabel Corro, president of the Committee of Relatives of the 20 December 1989 Victims [Comite Familiares de Caidos el 20 Diciembre de 1989], said on 3 June that the visit to Panama by President George Bush will provoke protests and will revive the controversy over the number of civilian and military casualties caused by the U.S. military intervention.

"We cannot understand how a murderer can come to Panama," Corro said. She announced that they will picket the Foreign Ministry at 1000 on 4 June and the U.S. Embassy at 1630 on 9 June.

Corro said that the protests will continue until 11 June, when Bush plans to meet with President Guillermo Endara. Corro did not provide further details. She only stated that "there will be many other protests to reject this murderer's arrival."

According to Corro, more than 2,000 people were killed by operation Just Cause. She said many of the victims "are buried" in approximately 10 common graves in Colon, Panama, and Cocle Provinces.

Corro rejected the official figures, which acknowledge that approximately 500 people were killed and 100 were wounded. Corro stated that common graves are located in Rio Hato, Colon, Ceremi [Military Recreation Center], El Chorrillo, Amador, Tocumen, Tinajita, and San Miguelito. Corro said many of the bodies found in a common grave opened in 1990 had their hands and legs tied and had been shot in the back. Bodies of children were also found in the grave.

Bush's Arrest Demanded

PA0606163392 Panama City LA PRENSA in Spanish 6 Jun 92 p 16 A

[Article by Irene Hernandez G.]

[Excerpt] Isabel Corro, president of the Association of Relatives of Invasion Casualties, on 5 June went to the Attorney General's Office, where she filed a suit against U.S. President George Bush and demanded that he be arrested as soon as he arrives in Panama on 11 June.

According to the suit, Bush is directly responsible for the occupation of Panamanian territory by the U.S. Army

that on 29 December 1989 ousted Noriega, including those persons that were killed or are missing.

Corro, accompanied by about 12 members of her group, added that the U.S. President is also accused of crimes against the property of the state, the people's collective security, the state's legal organization, and other crimes. [passage omitted]

'Peaceful' Demonstrations Permitted

PA0606164492 Panama City EL PANAMA AMERICA in Spanish 6 Jun 92 p 1A

[Excerpts] Menalco Solis, the executive secretary of the Council for Public Security and National Defense, has affirmed that the government will allow protest demonstrations during U.S. President George Bush's visit, as long as they are peaceful.

Solis said that, during his stay, President Bush's security will be the main responsibility of the Panamanian Government and added that all available security forces will be deployed to guarantee the President's safety. [passage omitted]

Menalco Solis stressed that demonstrations which do not involve violence will be allowed during the U.S. President's public appearances. There will be no repression by government security agencies, he said, but no acts of violence will be permitted.

Chorrillo To Demonstrate

PA0706183692 Panama City LA PRENSA in Spanish 7 Jun 92 p 1-A

[Report by Elio Rujano M. and Luis Alberto Dudley]

[Excerpt] [Passage omitted] President Guillermo Endara will meet on 8 June at the Presidency Palace with Hector Avila, a leader of the El Chorrillo neighborhood, to address the demands of that neighborhood's residents that the government fulfill its economic promises.

It also was learned that El Chorrillo neighborhood will be the scene of demonstrations against the visit by President Bush.

Regarding those protest demonstrations, Avila stated that "there are plans to carry out peaceful demonstrations, but they do not include blocking roads." Banners and other nonviolent methods will be used to express their demands.

The demonstrations will take place within the neighborhood limits, he said. "There will be civic demonstrations with banners and tombstones with crosses that read: 'Here lies El Chorrillo.' They also will say that what we suffered on 20 December was a massacre."

Avila, against whom authorities have issued an arrest warrant on charges of disturbing the peace, said that "we Chorrillo residents did not ask for the invasion and, furthermore, we have not been paid enough."

The Chorrillo leader stated that "the Martyr Neighborhood Coordinating Board [Coordinadora Barrio Martir] will continue to press the administration for $3,500 for household goods; debt forgiveness for payments due from residents of the Urban Renewal and 24 December housing projects; and for the 163 permanent homes still pending."

Columnist Cited

PA0806042692 Panama City CRITICA LIBRE in Spanish 7 Jun 92 p 4

["Concerns" column by Antonio Diaz]

[Text] Undoubtedly, the event holding Panama's attention is the upcoming visit by U.S. President George Bush on 11 June. The announced visit will take place before the wounds of the December 1989 invasion have healed. This makes me recall what happened to President Dwight Eisenhower when he tried to visit Tokyo after World War II and only a few years after the bombings of Hiroshima and Nagasaki. Zengakuren, a socialist organization, made sure that Eisenhower's visit to a Japan, which had not recovered from its surrender and occupation headed by General Douglas Macarthur, did not take place.

I believe it is a mistake to suggest to President Bush that he speak at Porras Square. Those who are planning this event do not have the slightest idea of what politics really is, and that suggestion is a senseless provocation.

Here in Panama there are many Panamanians who are grateful to the U.S. President for liberating us from the tyrant Noriega. I would have preferred a solution "a la Panama." I did not and I do not agree with anyone who invaded my country. I told Michael Kozak this last year when I was in Washington, D.C. to attend a drug abuse and control program.

I admire the U.S. Government's technological progress and its world leadership, which it earned on the basis of something we Panamanians lack: discipline. However, events were precipitated by Noriega's blunder, when he declared war on the most powerful nation in the world, and by the bragging of those who—with pitiful war materiel—dreamed they could confront a superpower army like the U.S. Army. That unnecessary invasion and the provocations of the paramilitary groups formed by the former government are to blame for our country's current situation. Our country is frustrated with the scourge of violence and disenchanted with a colorless government that has not bothered to strengthen national identity.

It is not often that a U.S. President will leave the banks of the Potomac River to visit a Latin American country. The opportunity is appropriate for reparations to be made, especially for the looting and for the victims of the invasion. Endara and the politicians who oppose him should declare a truce and attend, united, the talks with Bush. The other day I heard that Balbina Herrera and Dr. John Hoger joined forces to solve the San Miguelito problems. In the same manner, I hope the Arnulfist Party, the Christian Democratic Party, the Nationalist

Liberal Republican Movement, the Democratic Revolutionary Party, the liberal sectors, and others, will join forces and tell the U.S. President that in this country we have national pride and we hope that urgent rectifications, as was done in Europe through the Marshall Plan, will be done in Panama.

Mr. Bush's visit must be utilized to talk at that level. Forget the shows at Porras Square because the people who lost loved ones during the invasion will not understand this. Jimmy Carter visited Panama under very different circumstances. Therefore, Bush's visit should include working meetings to attain positive goals. Those who are promoting the show at Porras Square must understand that such an event will not win them points with the people. Likewise, statesmen like Mr. Bush are more interested in getting respect than in getting feigned love or watching native dances he and his delegation do not understand. The good thing about the gringos is that they do not go for brownnosers. Throughout their history and in their institutions they have made this evident.

Argentina

* UCR Leaders Criticize Menem's Program

92SM0410B Buenos Aires LA PRENSA in Spanish 25 Apr 92 p 5

[Text] More than 50 Radical leaders claimed that the "conservative program" of Carlos Menem's administration "gives priority to authoritarianism, corruption, and social insensitivity." They therefore expressed the need for the Radical Civic Union [UCR] to "take a firm stand in opposition" and once again become "a positive and necessary political alternative."

In a statement called "Proposal for Radicals," leaders such as Juan Manuel Casella, Federico Storani, Horacio Jaunarena, Marcelo Bassani, Juan Moure, and Juan Jose Cavallari came out in favor of "promoting the values of equality, solidarity, and honesty, paving the way to a modern and equitable Argentina and making every man and woman in the nation an active participant in democracy."

The proposal advanced by the 50-some leaders, scheduled for discussion at the party's next national convention, entails some criticism of internal elections. It states that "the internal approach contradicts the participative ideal of the UCR, because it favors the appearance of closed and secretive structures, placed at the service of personal projects or interests that alienate the people."

"Radicalism, the most influential opposition force in the country, should conduct a clear diagnosis of the critical situation now prevailing and propose solutions that are consistent with its basic doctrine," the statement said at the beginning.

Dominant Sectors

It went on to point out that "Menemism is an expression of an ideological and economic alliance aimed at executing a wealth distribution program that favors the dominant sectors, increases monopolistic or oligopolistic concentration, and dilutes the participative content of democracy to insufficient levels."

After warning that "the country is suffering from a climate of juridical uncertainty as a result of the politicization of the judiciary," the Radicals declared that "the conservative program is weakening the democratic state, depriving it of the capacity to exercise the functions that it cannot and should not delegate, such as those of education, health, security, justice, and the design of a strategy for economic growth."

Firm Opposition

"The first attitude of Radicalism should be one of firm opposition to the program put in place by the ruling party, but it is also imperative that we offer an alternative that differentiates us more for our ideas than for our criticism," they stated.

The statement emphasized that "the UCR must once again become the party that, regardless of good or bad electoral results, is a positive and necessary political alternative." It called for "an opening that signifies giving priority to people's real problems, promoting clear solutions that have sufficient technical grounds, and will return real representation to the people without resorting to demagogic or complacent proposals."

* Administration Agrees To Modify Wage Policy

92SM0410A Buenos Aires LA PRENSA in Spanish 7 May 92 p 6

[Text] The government has promised the General Confederation of Labor [CGT] it will modify its wage policy and put in place a mechanism to allow pay raises to take into account not just productivity, but also other economic variables. This move, revealed last night by a high-ranking source in the labor confederation, will make it possible to bring the base rate of pay "in line" in collective bargaining agreements and to break the stalemate in many unions' parity talks.

The agreement was reached at a meeting on 1 May between the minister of the economy and the five general secretaries of the CGT. The final mechanism will be discussed when the head of Finance returns from his trip to Europe.

Also participating in the meeting, held at Minister Cavallo's home on the 23rd floor of the building at Avenida del Libertador and Ocampo, were Labor Minister Rodolfo Diaz, Undersecretary of Labor Enrique Rodriguez, and Secretary of Economic Planning Juan Jose Llach.

Collection Adjustments

Cavallo reportedly informed the union leaders that he would agree to allowing "those agenices to directly collect the social welfare again," although the minister warned the leaders that he favors "competition and free affiliation after a brief period of rationalization" in these labor health care organizations.

At the meeting, which lasted nearly two hours, the CGT was represented by General Secretaries Oscar Lescano (Light and Power), Jose Rodriguez (Trade Union of Mechanics and Related Automotive Transportation Workers), Jose Pedraza (Railroads), and Anibal Martinez (Metalworkers Union), and leaders Carlos West Ocampo (Sanitation) and Armando Cavalieri (Commerce), among others.

The trade union spokesmen reported that Labor Minister Rodolfo Diaz "agreed to study a mechanism to allow the base pay in collective bargaining agreements to be brought in line with real wages."

There was no agreement as to which mechanism will be used, although Decree 1334 (which pegs pay raises to business productivity) could be modified to include other economic or labor variables as a means of computing wage increases, sources revealed.

Both Diaz and Cavallo reportedly admitted the need to "bring collective bargaining pay scales in line" and design a mechanism to bring the base rate of pay up to date, thereby ending the stalemate in parity negotiations for the majority of unions, said the source.

Wage Anarchy

The trade unionists explained to the minister that "a virtual wage anarchy prevails," because the majority of businesses are granting pay raises "without taking into account the productivity decree, inflation, or any law."

The CGT acknowledged Cavallo's achievements in terms of economic stability, but warned him that "wage and labor anarchy may conspire against the normalization of the economy." According to spokesmen who were present, the minister listened attentively to their statements.

The labor leaders told the minister that what is happening in the iron and steel companies could spread to the rest of the economy. In that sector, companies are paying more than 700 pesos, while the base pay in the collective bargaining agreement is 50 percent of that (320 pesos for miscellaneous journeymen).

Brazil

Debt Renegotiation Counterproposal Presented

PY0606231692 Brasilia Radio Nacional da Amazonia Network in Portuguese 1000 GMT 6 Jun 92

[Report by Mayr Lucy Vilela in Rio de Janeiro]

[Text] Brazil has presented a counterproposal for the renegotiation of its debt with foreign creditor banks. Economy Minister Marcilio Marques Moreira explained that this counterproposal is more specific regarding guarantees than the previous proposal.

Minister Marques Moreira, who has set up office at Riocenter, reported that Pedro Malan—the official Brazilian foreign debt negotiator—presented the counterproposal to the banks in New York. The minister explained that the difference between this proposal and the previous one is that this one is more specific regarding the amount of guarantees Brazil offers the banks for the renegotiation of the $41 billion debt. Brazil has promised to disburse $3 billion, part of which will be obtained from multilateral organizations such as the World Bank, the Inter-American Development Bank, and the IMF, while the other part will be new money obtained from the banks themselves and from the national exchange reserves.

Minister Marques Moreira hopes agreement with the banks will be reached this month.

President Approves Anticorruption Law

PY0506185792 Brasilia Voz do Brasil Network in Portuguese 2200 GMT 3 Jun 92

[Report by Lourival Macedo]

[Text] President Fernando Collor today in Rio de Janeiro approved Law 8429, which is also known as the Anticorruption Law.

It contemplates punishments that include: loss of position, dismissal, withdrawal of political rights for up to eight years, fines, arrest, and even obligation to pay for losses incurred.

The appointment to any public position is conditioned to declaring one's assets and private goods and properties. The record will be kept in the personnel department. Public employees are forbidden to receive gifts, money, or any other direct or indirect economic benefit.

Under the Anticorruption Law, any citizen can request an appropriate administrative official to investigate cases of misappropriation of public assets.

Debt Conversion Plan for Environment Formalized

PY0606030092 Brasilia Voz do Brasil Network in Portuguese 2200 GMT 5 Jun 92

[Excerpt] President Fernando Collor today formalized the first operation for conversion of the foreign debt into environmental preservation projects.

The Grande Sertao Veredas National Park, in Minas Gerais, will be the first to benefit from funds coming from the conversion of the foreign debt into environmental preservation projects.

The debt conversion operation was set in motion by President Collor during a ceremony at Riocenter. The Nature Conservancy, a U.S. nongovernmental organization, converted $2.2 million, which will be invested in a pro-nature project for management and preservation of the park. [passage omitted]

CPI Questions Pedro Collor About PC Farias

PY0606210292 Rio de Janeiro Rede Globo Television in Portuguese 1600 GMT 4 Jun 92

[Excerpts] The Commission for Congressional Investigation [CPI] that is investigating charges against businessman Paulo Cesar Farias, aka PC Farias, today began to question businessman Pedro Collor de Mello.

President Fernando Collor's brother arrived in Brasilia on time and shook up Congress. [passage omitted]

Many people were waiting for him in the Senate. Even before Pedro Collor's arrival, the CPI room was crowded. The security agents had to stand at one of the doors to prevent a riot. Those who could not get into the room took places outside to watch the testimony on television monitors.

When Pedro Collor arrived at Congress, he was surrounded by reporters. He only said that he hopes justice is done and added that he was anxious.

At the beginning of the testimony, Pedro Collor confirmed his charges against businessman PC Farias. He accused PC of extortion, blackmail, and influence peddling. [passage omitted]

The first questions were asked by CPI Coordinator Senator Almir Lando (Brazilian Democratic Movement Party). Lando asked whether Pedro Collor confirmed the charges against PC Farias that were published by VEJA magazine. Pedro Collor said he confirmed them but not literally. [passage omitted]

During the questioning, Pedro Collor admitted that he does not have documents to prove all the charges he made against PC Farias. He added, however, that very strong signs support the charges. He placed himself at the disposal of the CPI to help in the investigation.

Chile

Purchase of A-37's From U. S. Announced

PY0806012092 Santiago Radio Chilena Network in Spanish 1700 GMT 5 Jun 92

[Text] Defense Minister Patricio Rojas and Air Force Commander General Ramon Vega have announced the purchase of 10 A-37 light attack planes to replace similar Air Force planes. These planes were obtained through an agreement with the United States within the framework of reestablishment of bilateral military relations between the two nations.

Rojas said that these planes have performed well since they were put into action during the Vietnam war. He added that in the 1970's, our country purchased 34, which have worked well for training combat pilots.

Of these 34 planes, the Air Force has lost a total of 10 over the past few years; for this reason, they will be replaced. The planes are already flying to Chile.

The Air Force commander said that the replacement planes have the capacity and conditions to effectively train and retrain combat pilots, and he added that they have low operating costs, ideal for operating in our region.

Gen. Vega also admitted that with the quasi-donation of these planes, Chile runs the risk of becoming a captive client for the purchase of maintenance parts.

[Begin Vega recording] You are right about this, but this is something that happens everywhere in the world with countries that do not produce their own equipment. This does not happen just with the United States, but with any country in the world. It is for this reason that we are trying to institutionalize and nationalize, to the maximum, appropriate technology that will provide us with economically acceptable support. [end recording]

It has also been reported that General Teddy G. Allem, director of the U.S. Defense Assistance Agency, will arrive in Chile on 7 June at the invitation of Defense Minister Patricio Rojas.

Government Unwilling To Halt Development

PY0506161692 Santiago Radio Chilena Network in Spanish 1700 GMT 3 Jun 92

[Excerpt] Mining Minster Juan Hamilton has asserted that the government is not willing to interrupt the country's development process in order to solve its pollution problems. Hamilton made this statement in view of protests by various ecological organizations that believe the executive branch's draft bill on the environment will safeguard business interests. Hamilton said that, in the first place, these organizations are giving their opinion on something which has not become law:

[Begin recording] In Chile, the preservation of the environment and the process to decontaminate the atmosphere must be carried out according to the country's development capability. We are not going to stop the country's development to try to solve the pollution problems. [end recording]

Hamilton added that this is why the government upholds the theory of sustained development. [passage omitted]

Shining Path Presence in North Said 'Possible'

PY0506222392 Santiago Radio Cooperativa Network in Spanish 2300 GMT 4 Jun 92

[Text] General Rodolfo Stange, the Carabineros director, has admitted that the Peruvian Shining Path terrorist group may be operating in Chile.

He said this after attending a lecture by General Mario Morales, the Carabineros order and safety director, to private bank representatives on the new central alarm system.

In response to questions, Gen. Stange said that appropriate investigations and evaluations are being made to ascertain whether the Shining Path has infiltrated northern Chile.

[Begin recording] [Stange, in progress] ...it is possible, because you see that criminals and terrorists organize themselves not only at a local but also at an international level. They exchange technology, just as we are exchanging police technology at a world level. They also exchange technology and methods that are used in various countries.

[Unidentified reporter] Is it not possible to close the border to Shining Path members?

[Stange] Control has be reinforced, work is being done, and border checkpoints have been reinforced. We hope they will not enter Chile. [end recording]

Gen. Stange said that a special investigation is being conducted in northern Chile and that the Carabineros have sent reinforcements. He added that he will visit the area next week to get first-hand knowledge of the results of the investigations.

Regarding the terrorist attack in Iquique today, during which one person died and another was seriously wounded, Gen. Stange declined to say whether it is directly linked with the threats that ZOFRI [Iquique Free Trade Zone] businessmen received.

It should be noted that even though the Shining Path is believed to have infiltrated northern Chile, there is also the possibility of a commercial war in the zone. Gen. Stange said that all hypotheses are being considered and discarded as the investigation moves forward.

Stange concluded by saying that the situation is under total police control.

Colombia

'Huge Terrorist Plan' Uncovered in Medellin

PA0506174292 Santa Fe de Bogota Inravision Television Cadena 1 in Spanish 1630 GMT 5 Jun 92

[Text] We have an important last-minute report from Medellin, where there have been several dynamite attacks in recent hours. The Medellin authorities have dealt a strong blow against the terrorist groups.

The Antioquia authorities have just uncovered a huge terrorist plan of the Simon Bolivar National Guerrilla Coordinating Board, which was to have been carried out within the next few days in Medellin.

The plan was foiled a few hours ago when the police found a cache in a restaurant in Las Palmas and seized 350 kg of dynamite, 60 detonators, several meters of fuse, and several radios. According to the metropolitan police, the terrorist plan included several dynamite attacks against the electricity infrastructure of the city, government offices, military and police installations, and industrial and commercial sites of Medellin and the surrounding metropolitan area.

At least five persons were arrested and several vehicles were seized. Military uniforms were also found. The authorities also reported they dismantled an urban guerrilla cell that was active in Medellin. This has been a last-minute report

Patriotic Union Officials Killed in Meta

PA0406215592 Santa Fe de Bogota Inravision Television Cadena 1 in Spanish 1630 GMT 4 Jun 92

[Text] A sad story was repeated in El Castillo, Meta Department, on the night of 3 June. The new mayor, the former mayor, and the treasurer of the municipality were massacred. All of them were members of the Patriotic Union [UP]. The news has caused commotion in the region. Here is a report by Hernan Estupinan:

[Begin Estupinan recording] This is the condition in which the vehicle of the El Castillo municipality was left. [video shows vehicle] Five municipal officials were massacred including the current mayor. As the public will recall, approximately four years ago, 17 peasants were massacred in this location known as Cano Sibao. At the site, there is a statue of the Virgin Mary with a sign which reads: Mary, mother of Christ, intercede for our sinners; may those who died here rest in peace. The sign is undated.

The municipal officials who died were: Mayor William Ocampo Castano, 37; former Mayor Maria Mercedes Mendez de Garcia; Treasurer Rosa Pena Rodriguez; Ernesto Escobar, the treasurer's husband who was also a municipal official, and the driver. The municipal legal secretary was injured. The massacre occurred on the road from Villavicencio and Granada to El Castillo municipality. The driver, Pedro Tafur, lost control of the vehicle when the attack occurred. The vehicle crashed against a hill on the side of the road. From the evidence found at the site of the attack, the victims did not have time to react to the bursts of machine gun fire. We found a wet and dirty bulletproof vest at the site. The massacre shocked political and social circles in Meta Department because the five victims were active members of the UP. The authorities are investigating to determine those responsible for the action, but it has been said unofficially that the massacre was committed by paramilitary groups. [end recording]

UP To Sue Government

PA0506235992 Santa Fe de Bogota Inravision Television Cadena 1 in Spanish 2300 GMT 4 Jun 92

[Text] The Patriotic Union [UP] has announced it will file a lawsuit against the Colombian Government for the killings at El Castillo. In a meeting held with Government Minister Humberto de la Calle Lombana, UP members noted that so far this year 55 members of their movement have been killed.

The UP's request for protection for the lives of its leaders has been echoed by many. Alderwoman Aida Avella, Congressmen Hernan Motta Motta and Manuel Zepeda, and Alvaro Vasquez, secretary of the Colombian Communist Party, have asked Government Minister Humberto de la Calle Lombana to dismiss the military leadership in charge of the 7th Infantry Brigade in Meta Department. The UP accused 7th Infantry Brigade members of being the masterminds and perpetrators of the massacre.

[Begin recording] [Avella] The military officers responsible for this should be dismissed and, as for this specific crime, Lieutenant Rojas from the Vargas Battalion should be immediately dismissed.

[Zepeda] There is evidence we will submit in the proceedings against the state that proves the actions taken by the 7th Infantry Brigade, along with Victor Carranza's paramilitary groups, against the UP in Meta Department. [end recording]

Patriotic Union delegates reminded the government minister that the victims, by means of letters sent to President Cesar Gaviria, had condemned the constant threats against their lives.

The government has appointed a commission, which will visit the site of the massacre, and has said it will not allow this crime to go unpunished.

Army Commander Comments

PA0706031392 Santa Fe de Bogota Inravision Television Cadena 1 in Spanish 0000 GMT 6 Jun 92

[Text] A special commission made up of delegates from the Attorney General's Office, the Department of Criminal Investigations, the National Police, and the Administrative Department of Security [DAS] will travel over the weekend of 6 June to El Castillo, Meta Department, at the orders of President Cesar Gaviria. They will investigate the massacre of the former town mayor and four other people. Regarding this criminal act, General Manuel Murillo, commander in chief of the Army, denied accusations that the Army was responsible for the massacre. He said he is contemplating the possibility of pressing charges against the Patriotic Union [UP] for libel and slander.

[Begin Murillo recording] As commander in chief of the Army I reject and condemn the vicious murder of people who have been elected to direct the destiny of a Colombian municipality. As the authorities we will not rest until those responsible for this horrible act are found. Regarding the accusations made against the Army, I would like to state that they are as bad as the crime itself. I believe the accusations are as deplorable as that crime. [end recording]

General Murillo added that if the political group has proof, it should present it to the courts so that the perpetrators can be punished in accordance with the law. He rejected the escalation in terrorist attacks unleashed by the Simon Bolivar National Guerrilla Coordinating Board against the country's air traffic.

Protection for Embassy in Peru Requested

PA0406033292 Santa Fe de Bogota Inravision Television Cadena 1 in Spanish 2300 GMT 3 Jun 92

[Text] In view of the threats received at the Colombian Embassy in Lima, Colombian Foreign Minister Nohemi Sanin has asked the Peruvian Government to give adequate protection to Colombian diplomats and the embassy. Peruvian Foreign Minister Oscar de la Puente immediately pledged to give the Colombian Embassy the necessary protection.

Rebels Destroy Telecommunications in Medellin

PA0506143392 Santa Fe de Bogota Emisoras Caracol Network in Spanish 1320 GMT 5 Jun 92

[Text] [Announcer] We have a report by Jairo Calle on the attack on Santa Elena hill and against the nerve center of the telecommunications section of the Jose Maria Cordoba Airport, the Caracol and Todelar Radio Networks, and other important centers of Medellin, capital of Antioquia Department.

[Calle] Good morning. The losses from the terrorist attack on telecommunication installations of private and state enterprises on the morning of 5 June are estimated initially at 200 million pesos. The most serious damage was to the microwave link of Public Enterprises of Medellin, which interconnects the communications system with the Jose Maria Cordoba Airport in Rio Negro. The airport's telephone communications have been cut off. The airport's emergency generator and the microwave equipment were also destroyed. The losses are estimated at 80 million pesos.

It must be noted that there are only three of these types of microwave equipment in the country. Alternate means to overcome the communications problems are being studied. A private company, Fase Communications, was also affected by the terrorist attacks. All its equipment was destroyed. The losses are estimated at 40 million pesos. Equipment owned by Bolivariana de Comunicaciones, [name indistinct], and Caracol's transmission installations were also destroyed.

We have received a report on what occurred on Cerro Verde. We were told that the police clashed with approximately 20 men who staged the attack on the civil aeronautics radio aid installations. Two police sentry boxes and a dormitory were destroyed. Three policemen were wounded. Two of them are in serious condition, and they have been transferred to Medellin hospitals. This is the information we have about the actions on Santa Elena hill.

[Announcer] We now have a report from Julio Betancour, who is at the Jose Maria Cordoba International Airport.

[Betancour] The three policemen who were seriously wounded in the fighting with the column of the Guerrilla Coordinating Board have been transferred to Santa Fe de Bogota on the first flight out. The clash occurred in Cerro Verde, Santa Elena, in the jurisdiction of Medellin.

The first effects of the destruction of the microwave link of Public Enterprises of Medellin, which connects communications of the Jose Maria Cordoba Airport with Medellin and the rest of the country, are being felt. Only flights to Santa Fe de Bogota and Cali have been able to take off. No commercial passenger or cargo flights have been able to land this morning. The airlines are also having problems with the passenger lists because the computer systems are out. The Telecom [Colombian Telecommunications Enterprise]. DAS [Administrative

Department of Security], Immigration Department, and Civil Aeronautics offices are unable to provide services. A security council meeting has just been called by Hernan Valencia Guevara, chief of Zone Two, to adopt measures to protect the Jose Maria Cordoba Airport.

Bomb Explosions in Banks Reported

PA0306194592 Santa Fe de Bogota Inravision Television Cadena 1 in Spanish 2300 GMT 2 Jun 92

[Text] On the evening of 1 June in Santa Fe de Bogota, several banks and credit union offices were attacked with medium-intensity explosives. Six homemade bombs made with black gunpowder and weighing less than one pound were placed in banks in the center, western, and eastern part of the capital.

Three branches of Banco Popular, one office of Banco Central Hipotecario, one office of Banco de Occidente, and one branch of the Corporacion de Ahorro y Vivienda, Corpavi, were attacked.

According to authorities, the explosives were placed by urban cells of the Simon Bolivar National Guerrilla Coordinating Board. These isolated incidents did not cause casualties, but damages have been estimated at 8 million pesos.

Peru

Truck Bomb Destroys Lima Television Station

PA0506125292 Lima Radio Programas del Peru Network in Spanish 1208 GMT 5 Jun 92

[Text] Very early on the morning of 5 June, Television Channel 2 [Frequencia 2 Satelite Television] became the first media source to be seriously affected by a terrorist attack. Five journalists and security guards were killed in the attack.

The attack took place very early on 5 June when Channel 2 was broadcasting its "90 Seconds" newscast. A truck bomb made of approximately 600 kg of dynamite and amfo [mixture of amonal and gelatine dynamite] was set off. Editor Alejandro Perez, security guards Javier Reyes and Teddy Hidalgo, and another unidentified individual were killed in the attack. The transmission antenna, the news room, master control equipment, administrative offices, and nine vehicles were destroyed.

Ricardo Muller, director of "90 Seconds," said: Channel 2, which was virtually destroyed, will continue to operate. They will not silence us. Terrorism will not defeat the Peruvian media.

Muller, amid tears, said that his close friend, Alejandro Perez, producer of the "90 Seconds" newscast, died practically in his arms, and three other security guards, who were also his friends, were killed. Muller said: They have destroyed our channel. This is the first media source that has been the target of such an attack. It shows how far the terrorists' insanity has gone, but they will not defeat us. They can kill us, but they will be unable to silence the media.

Genaro Delgado Parker, president of the Peruvian Radio and Television Association, announced that the Peruvian television and radio stations will mobilize so that the private television channel, which was destroyed by a terrorist attack on 5 June, will go back on the air as soon as possible. Delgado said: Some people want to silence freedom of speech in our country. Some people do not want us to report or file charges. We will not keep silent. No station can feel free today. We have all been attacked, and we should all come out in defense of Channel 2. He called on all members of the media to mobilize.

Fujimori Denounces Attack, Announces Measures

PA0606194792 Paris AFP in Spanish 1833 GMT 6 Jun 92

[Excerpt] Lima, 6 Jun (AFP)— President Alberto Fujimori has announced new protective measures "to eliminate the possibility, small as it may be, that a regime of terror may begin in Peru." He also urged the international public to harshly condemn the savage attack on a news media installation on 4 June.

"Channel 2 became the target of Peru's enemies for no other reason than its firm and systematic defense of human rights, which are violated by terrorism, and its condemnation of the terrorists' destructive work," Fujimori wrote in a letter to Channel 2 directors.

Fujimori, who has abstained from participating in any public activity in recent days, convoked an emergency meeting of his cabinet yesterday. The meeting was held at "the little Pentagon" (the Army's General Headquarters) to adopt security measures. Security measures have been doubled in Lima since the attack. [passage omitted]

Commander: No Curfew

PA0506194992 Lima Radio Programas del Peru Network in Spanish 1821 GMT 5 Jun 92

[Text] General Nicolas de Bari Hermoza Rios, Army commander general and commander of the Armed Forces Joint Command, has stated that it is not necessary to impose a curfew in the capital.

After visiting the destroyed installations of Frecuencia 2 Satelite Television, Nicolas Hermoza said that on 5 June the television channel will go back on the air, as a response to the attack.

[Begin Gen. Hermoza recording] This is an insane attack against freedom of the press, human rights, workers, and the people. These people not only deserve the condemnation and solidarity of all Peruvians, but also the condemnation of all the world's press. [sentence as heard] I have come here to offer my support. If I can, I would like to help mitigate the physical destruction. I also want to point out the dedication and valor of all the

personnel who work at this channel, because on 5 June you will go back on the air. Despite this destruction, you will go back on the air. This is the response that all Peruvians must give to the criminals who believe that, with these actions, they will threaten the people. Gentlemen, the people, the Armed Forces, and you will be a wall that will protect and get our country ahead. [end recording]

Fujimori Sums Up Steps to Counter Terrorism

PA0806011492 Lima Radio Programas del Peru Network in Spanish 0015 GMT 8 Jun 92

[Text] Subversives have lost important battles after being evicted from universities, peasant communities, and prisons, and they are now trying to rally their forces in Lima, President Fujimori has said. He said that to defeat the terrorists it is essential to fight with intelligence and without desperation.

[Begin Fujimori recording, in progress] ...the joint action of the Armed Forces and the peasant patrols. The subversives are also being expelled from universities, where they have been maintaining training centers. They have been neutralized at the prisons, from which the leaders often directed the bloodiest operations. Defeated on those three important fronts, the subversives are now plotting their actions somewhere in the capital. That had not been included in their bloody plot. But with the successive and considerable losses they have experienced in the field, at universities, and in prisons, they are now trying to concentrate their forces in Lima. [end recording]

Fujimori said that the new anti-subversive strategy guarantees the isolation of the terrorists. He added that pacification will be achieved with the support of the police and Armed Forces, even in the country's remotest areas.

[Begin Fujimori recording] The people are sure that every terrorist captured is put away in prison. Leniency is over with in this government. The new anti-terror legislation will yield fruit to the extent that the drastic penalties and the maximum security of the prisons holding terrorists begins to be applied on a large-scale basis. In accordance with the new approach, those who participate in terrorism—forced to do so by criminal organizations—will receive reduced penalties if they supply, as it is already happening, valuable information to help put an end to the structure of the terrorist organizations. [end recording]

Vows Continued Fight

PA0806140392 Lima Panamericana Television Network in Spanish 1200 GMT 8 Jun 92

[Text] President Alberto Fujimori has reiterated his firm determination to attain peace in the country with the support of the Peruvian people, and said it would be consolidated with the help of the Armed Forces and the police. The president made the statement during a ceremony pledging allegiance to the flag held at the Bolognese Plaza.

When he arrived at the plaza, Mr. Fujimori was welcomed with the honors accorded to his high office. In his speech, he demanded the urgent need to follow the example of our illustrious heroes. He announced thorough investigations will be conducted on the attack against television station Channel Two.

[Begin Fujimori recording, in progress] ...they will not be able to halt national reconstruction. This is a great task that we Peruvians have undertaken as of 28 July 1990. Shortly, it will be two years, and we have been waging a tremendous effort to recover the dignity that we deserve and our right to progress and peace. It is up to Peruvians, who must pull Peru from the debris. Nobody should lose patience or take a step backward because the enemies are lying in wait.

Today we still see a crisis [words indistinct] of the sad heritage of demagoguery and corruption. We must be very consistent in our efforts to overcome those evils.

That is the only way we can eliminate this [word indistinct]. We must realize there are people who do not want it to happen. There are those want to destroy what the government is doing, to hamper its work. This (?deadly) enemy lives among us and we cannot see it. All efforts by terrorist bandits are aimed at sabotaging national reconstruction, because they know they will be able to destroy the Peruvian state only if they can return to the conditions that existed prior to 28 July 1990.

Those criminal forces will lose the war, even if the opposite seems true, which is understandable. Those who are not in the military are unaware of the essential elements of the antiterrorist strategy. That is why I understand the impatience of some sectors of society. In addition to inheriting an economic disaster, we also inherited a war, a war between the state and organized crime. Intelligence work to detect the movement of terrorists involves patient work that needs to be constantly nourished with information from all citizens.

There is no magic wand that can immediately change this situation, here or any other place in the world. [end recording]

Fujimori Says No Regrets About 'Palace Coup'

PA0706155892 Paris AFP in Spanish 1443 GMT 7 Jun 92

[Text] Caracas, 7 Jun (AFP)—Peruvian President Alberto Fujimori does not regret having staged the "palace coup" on 5 April, the president himself said in an interview broadcast on 7 June by Televen, a private Venezuelan television channel.

"I would do it again; I do not regret it," Fujimori said on the program "Jose Vicente Hoy," during an interview granted at the Lima Presidential Palace.

Fujimori pointed out: "Although I did not specifically say it, I was very clear (at the OAS meeting) in the Bahamas. I did not go there to take anything back. I went there to explain the circumstances that led me to that decision," Fujimori pointed out.

Fujimori admitted that he was affected by the international reaction to his "palace coup," because "I did not think the message would be distorted."

Although he refused to specify at what point in time he realized the "palace coup" would be a solution, the Peruvian president said that it was necessary primarily due to the crisis in the political system "that has led to terrorism, narcotics trafficking, and the current economic situation."

Fujimori To Consult With OAS on Election Date

PA0806012292 Lima Radio Programas del Peru Network in Spanish 0042 GMT 8 Jun 92

[Text] The possibility of changing the date of the elections for the new constituent congress is being studied so that the date will not interfere with the procession in honor of Our Lord of the Miracles. President Alberto Fujimori said the OAS commission will be consulted to prevent misinterpretations of the government's decision.

[Begin Fujimori recording] That will be announced in the next few days in a decree that will set the date for the CCD [Democratic Constituent Congress] elections. We must obviously take into consideration the religion of the Peruvian people and not interfere with such an important procession as the procession in honor of Our Lord of the Miracles. But, I repeat, to avoid a misinterpretation of our decision to change the date of the elections, I would prefer to coordinate the changes internally and exchange views with the OAS commission. That will show them that the Peruvian Government wants to see the democratic process through. [end recording]

Government Reinstates Judiciary Branch Officials

PA0506202492 Lima Radio Programas del Peru Network in Spanish 1800 GMT 5 Jun 92

[Text] The Emergency Government of National Reconstruction annulled the decree whereby a Supreme Court of Justice official, a Lima Superior Court official, and four judges from the Lima Judiciary District had been dismissed last month within the framework of the judiciary reorganization process.

The name of Lorenzo Marco Becerra appears in the Decree Law 25-524. He died a little after the government decided to dismiss him as an official of the Supreme Court of Justice. In addition, the following dismissals were annulled: Alejandro Rodriguez Medrano, Lima Superior Court official; Marcos Ibaceta Marino; Cesar Manrique Cegarra; and Haide Quispe Fernandez and Luz Capunay de Mesa, Lima Judiciary District judges.

Association Head Comments

PA0706134592 Lima Radio Programas del Peru Network in Spanish 1800 GMT 5 Jun 92

[Interview with Dr. Angel Romero Diaz, president of the Association of Peruvian Magistrates, by unidentified reporter]

[Text] [Reporter] Good afternoon, Dr. Romero Diaz.

[Romero] Good afternoon. Glad to see you.

[Reporter] Same to you, sir. We have before us the decree, published on page 107351 of the 5 June edition of the official newspaper EL PERUANO. The decree cancels the dismissal of a Supreme Court of Justice official, one of the Higher Court, and four magistrates of the Lima Judicial District. Dr. Lorenzo Martos Becerra is included. As far as we know, Martos Becerra has passed away. Is that right, Doctor?

[Romero] Yes. He died a few days after the announcement of his and the other officials' removal from office.

[Reporter] Does this decree mean that the work and professionalism of the court officials has been recognized?

[Romero] Right. But before proceeding any further, in the name of the Association of Peruvian Magistrates, I want to express solidarity with all local journalists, particularly those of Channel 2, for what has happened.

[Reporter] Thank you.

[Romero] That crazy attack shows that all Peruvians should unite in the face of groups far removed from democracy or the country's progress.

[Reporter] You are most kind, Dr. Romero.

[Romero] Thank you. Now, to answer your question, it is evident that the decree represents a healthy rectification by Mr. Fujimori's government. I wish such rectification could be extended to everyone, because many magistrates have been fired without consideration for legal procedures or the right to defend ourselves, to which everyone is entitled. I repeat, this decree is a healthy rectification by the de facto government. Now, regarding Dr. Martos, the government has paid homage to him. He was an irreproachable career magistrate who culminated his judicial career as official of the Supreme Court of Justice. He died a few days after the government fired him. The decree rectifies an mistake made regarding an honest magistrate who set an example for us all.

[Reporter] We only wanted to hear you out and wish you luck. However, we still have one question: Is the Association of Magistrates still functioning, and are you the president? What is the situation?

[Romero] Look, the Association of Peruvian Magistrates is a private law association with no legal relationship whatsoever to the judicial branch. The association's main characteristic is that the members are magistrates,

regardless of whether they are active or have been dismissed by the government. I was elected president democratically at the Ica assembly in March, and my term ends next year.

Vargas Llosa on Call For Constituent Congress

PA0606151192 Lima Radio Programas del Peru Network in Spanish 1800 GMT 5 Jun 92

[Text] Former presidential candidate Mario Vargas Llosa has said that the call for a Democratic Constituent Congress, CCD, is a positive sign from President Fujimori's government. However, he added that there is skepticism because there are doubts about whether the president is sincere or only adopting a tactical measure in view of international pressure.

Vargas Llosa, leader of the Liberty Movement, said that if there is no coordination between the government and the opposition, political parties will be right not to participate in the CCD.

Vargas Llosa, who is currently in Berlin, condemned the terrorist attack against Channel 2. He said such actions do not lead to anything positive, but rather push the country into barbarism and backwardness.

He added that the Peruvian people should close ranks to condemn the subversive attack.

Parties Demand Political Talks Before Election

PA0606185092 Lima Global de Television Network in Spanish 0100 GMT 5 Jun 92

[Text] Three days after President Alberto Fujimori announced that elections for the Democratic Constituent Congress would be held on 18 October, the political parties have demanded in a written statement that the government hold political talks prior to the election. Such a measure would meet the requirements of the democratization agreement outlined in the OAS resolution. The parties sent a letter, which was signed by a majority of the political representatives, to OAS Secretary General Joao Baena Soares demanding that the dialogue prerequisite be observed.

Senator Enrique Bernales of the dissolved congress, who was tasked with presenting the statement, said that if the government avoids such talks, the parties will evoke Section 6 of the 18 May OAS resolution.

[Begin Bernales recording] First, the political parties hereby protest the government's intention to impose a call for constituent congress elections without first meeting the prerequisite of holding a political dialogue as part of the democratization process set forth in the 18 May OAS resolution. That action is intended to limit the authority of the constituent assembly and scuttle the constituent, regional, and municipal election process.

Consequently, the political forces have advised the OAS that if the government insists on avoiding such talks and imposing unilateral decisions, it will invoke Section 6 of the 18 May resolution. Section 6 calls for the OAS to convene a meeting of foreign ministers to discuss the noncompliance of the de-facto government of Peru with the commitment to bring about democracy through dialogue. [end recording]

Government Seizing Clandestine Radio Stations

PA0306211392 Lima Global de Television Network in Spanish 0100 GMT 3 Jun 92

[Text] On 2 June, Deputy Communications Minister Luis Alberto Maravi asked the legal authorities in the interior of the country to expedite the confiscation of equipment used by illegal radio stations operating there. He regretted judicial officials do not act as strongly as necessary due to threats.

[Begin Maravi recording] We are systematically going from city to city, seizing the clandestine radio stations. That entails issuing a resolution and getting the support of the judicial branch and the police force. For instance, in the case.... [pauses] Why do I say support? Because in the specific case in the city of Moquegua, which took place last week, the local judge refused to intervene. She felt afraid. She basically told us: You leave tomorrow and what happens to me then? She did not want to intervene and foiled the confiscations in that city where there are many clandestine radio stations.

In that respect, I will like to ask the legal news media to help us stop the unlawful situations. I ask the judicial branch to help us. The matter does not end with the confiscation. As the owners of those stations have been using a resource belonging to the whole nation and they have been illegally using the electromagnetic spectrum, we will begin legal proceedings. The matter does not end with the confiscation because we will begin legal action against the transgressors. [end recording]

Ammunition, Weapons Seized in Alto Huallaga

PY0506184192 Lima EL COMERCIO in Spanish 28 May 92 p A13

[Text] Operations to counteract subversive activities in Alto Huallaga were stepped up during the past few days by the forces in charge of pacifying the zone. Antisubversive forces have seized a large quantity of weapons.

The so-called Command of the Huallaga Front, which controls Huanuco and San Martin departments, has stated that 274 grenades of various types were seized during the operations. Among the seized grenades are pineapple grenades, German offensive grenades, Russian fragmentation grenades, grenades for API [expansion unknown] rifles, grenades for M16-A2 rifles, offensive hand grenades model 62, and Instalazas.

The patrols also seized 28 rifles from "narcoterrorists."

The command explained that the weapons include FAL rifles, Korean-made AKM rifles, breech-loaders, pistols,

revolvers, submachine guns, G3 rifles, MAG and MGP machine guns. A significant amount of ammunition for various types of arms were also seized. It was disclosed that some 1,500 varied caliber cartridges for short, long, and medium-barrel weapons were seized. There is 7.62 mm, 16 mm, 5.56 mm and .38 caliber ammunition.

The military patrols also seized transmitters used by the "narcoterrorists" for communication with various groups; "home-made" traps, red cloth, ammunition pouches, and other elements.

The Command of the Huallaga Front announced that the operations were carried out on 23 May in San Agustin. The command captured Shining Path members who on 21 May attacked a military patrol and civilians on their way to work on the Tingo Maria-Pucallpa highway in the town of Garganta del Diablo (Leoncio Prado-Huanuco region). Also on 23 May, the troops clashed with "narcoterrorists" of the MRTA [Tupac Amaru Revolutionary Movement] in a place called "Pachiza."

The following day Army officers repelled a group of MRTA members who held up banks in Nuevo Cajamarca, in Rioja-San Martin. Operations carried out on 25 May in Shontayacu have also resulted in the seizure of more weapons in the hands of the terrorists.

Government Issues Agriculture Emergency Decree

PY0306135292

[Editorial Report] Lima EL PERUANO in Spanish on 26 May publishes in the Legal Supplement on pages 107135 and 107136, the 800-word text of Supreme Decree No. 25509 "declaring the national agricultural and livestock activities in a state of emergency and implementing support programs, especially for small farmers."

The decree declares a national emergency until 31 December 1993 and authorizes the Agriculture, Economy, and Finance Ministries to implement the following programs: "A financing program" worth $50 million; "A program to finance input" worth $40 million for the purchase of pesticides and fertilizers and $10 million for seed; "A support program for equipment and means of transportation;" "An emergency program to counterbalance the effects of the drought in the mountainous region;" "A program to promote rotating funds for input;" "An emergency program for flooded regions;" "A program promoting registration of title deeds of rural property;" and "A program for training and promoting rural financial systems."

The Decree Law was signed on 22 May 1992 by President Alberto Fujimori and 12 ministers of state.

Funds for Agricultural Reactivation Released

PY0506183592 Lima EL PERUANO in Spanish 27 May 92 p A5

[Excerpt] Lima, 26 May (ANDINA)—Agriculture Minister Absalon Vasquez Villanueva on 26 May said that the Government of Emergency and National Reconstruction has earmarked $200 million to reactivate agriculture. The fund will be channeled through the Regional Agrarian Fund [FAR].

Of that total, $50 million was granted by the Japanese Government. [passage omitted]

Minister Requests Special Treatment Over Tax

PY0506190792 Lima EL PERUANO in Spanish 28 May 92 p A2

[Excerpt] Agriculture Minister Absalon Vasquez, yesterday asked for tolerance from Andean Pact member countries over the suspension of the zero-customs tax for 2 years. The measure seeks to avoid further damage to Peruvian agriculture, which has been hit recently by droughts and floods.

Minister Vasquez said that the preferential tax would negatively affect Peruvian agricultural products because it puts them at a disadvantage with products of neighboring countries and compels importers of Peruvian goods to seek cheaper goods in other countries.

Vasquez said that the measures cannot be unilateral. He reiterated his proposal to reach a coordinated agreement with other Andean Pact member countries to establish "safeguard clauses" until Peru can compete on equal terms.

Vasquez asked for understanding for the pitiful state of Peruvian agriculture, which is affected by climatic changes and the demagogic handling of agrarian policy in the past. He recalled the early years of the Andean Pact when some member countries were given preferential treatment because of their lower development level.

Minister Vasquez made his statement before opening the "First International Convention on Fruit and Vegetable Production," which ends today. Vasquez was confident his request would be welcomed by the member countries of the regional pact, and added that it is not up to him to decide whether or not safeguards should be established for Peru. [passage omitted]

Report on Strategic Companies' Privatization

PY0706004292 Lima EXPRESO in Spanish 28 May 92 pp A2-A3

[Text] The categorical announcement made in New York by Energy and Mines Minister Jaime Yoshiyama that all state companies will be privatized includes strategic companies that were left out of the privatization process in the last two years.

That was confirmed yesterday by official sources who reported that the companies to be privatized include Petroperu [State Petroleum Agency], and not only Petroperu distribution plants; Electroperu [Peruvian State Electric Power Enterprise]; Siderperu [Peruvian Iron and Steel Enterprise], a highly strategic company; Entel [National Telecommunications Enterprise of Peru]; Enapu [National Ports Enterprise]; and Enafer [National Railway Enterprise] among others that were not originally included in the privatization plan either. The establishment, therefore, of the privatization committees, or Copri, is unavoidable.

The list is completed by other companies that already have a Copri in operation such as Mineroperu [Peruvian State Mining Enterprise] and Hierroperu [Peruvian Iron Mines Enterprise]; or those whose privatization already has been announced such as Popular and Provenir (insurance companies), Continental Bank, the Central Mortgage Bank, Quimica del Pacifico, Bayer Industrial, Cementos Lima, Aeroperu [Peruvian State Airline], Enatru [National Urban Transport Enterprise], the Commerce Bank, etc.

Petroperu

The government's decision to end the state management of Petroperu was disclosed on 23 May through a brief supreme decree published in the official newspaper EL PERUANO. The decree announcing President Alberto Fujimori's decision to include Petroperu in the privatization process even took Petroperu officials by surprise.

A Petroperu official told EXPRESO yesterday: "The decree is brief but it goes beyond anything that has been done until now: the selling of Petroperu distribution plants and the Conchan refinery."

Until recently there was talk about a plan to restructure the four Petroperu industrial plants, privatizing its six refineries and decreasing its marketing, refinancing, and extraction operations.

Studies are under way on the streamlining of 85 Petroperu distribution plants and gas stations.

According to a publication named APOYO, Petromar [expansion unknown] may be sold by July of this year and it is known that there are U.S. companies, such as Hallowod Petroleum Inc. of Denver, that have expressed interest in purchasing it.

The sale of the Petrolera Transoceanica company, an oil shipping company, is expected to take place in one and a half months. This company in 1991 collected profits totalling $43 million for fuel transportation with either its own or contracted units.

Electroperu

Another decisive step within the framework of the restructuring of the government's role in the business sector is the sale of Electroperu. The first step in that direction was taken by selling the shares it owns in regional power companies.

According to APOYO, the plan "calls for Electroperu to center its activities on engineering projects, leaving the generation and distribution of power energy to private administration."

Because the Copri already has been established, it is believed that Electroperu soon will sell the shares it owns in regional power companies such as Norte Medio, Electro Norte, Electro Centro and Electro Sureste.

Hierroperu and Mineroperu

According to the same source, First Boston Bank is offering its assessment in the privatization of Hierroperu. The same source added that sale proceedings will be disclosed next month. The main interested party is Japanese capital.

The study to assess the value of Mineroperu will be finished by the end of August, and the transfer of the second stage of Cerro Verde continues to be the privatization plan's top priority.

According to Economy Ministry sources, the establishment of special committees in main state companies and the conversion of debt notes into company shares will expedite the entire privatization process.

Three supreme resolutions issued on 22 May appointed the following people as chairmen of special committees: Augusto Baertl Montori for Petroperu, Juan Moya Planas for Siderperu, and Guillermo Castillo Justo for Electrolima and Electroperu.

Both Economy Minister Carlos Bolona Behr and Copri Technical Director Carlos Montoya, on behalf of Energy Minister Yoshiyama, have approved the conversion mechanism of debt notes into shares.

Although in the beginning the different quotation rates for the shares raised some doubts about the conversion mechanism, the final decision that has been adopted seeks to facilitate the privatization process but also to decrease our foreign debt, particularly the one contracted with the private banking sector, which only can be contracted by state companies.

Economy Ministry advisers have been holding meetings with Foreign Debt Committee members to study the different contracts that have been signed by stockholders and the state.

Although it is a difficult task, Economy Ministry officials trust that they will finish the assessment reports on the value of stocks to be auctioned on time.

Requests for Postponing Privatizations Viewed

PY0706010092

[Editorial Report] Lima LA REPUBLICA in Spanish on 28 May publishes on page 5—under the heading "Several Have Requested that Privatization of State-Owned Companies Be Postponed Until Exchange Rate Goes Up"—a 1,500-word item reporting that economists and congressmen have questioned Economy and Finance Minister Carlos Bolona's and Energy and Mines Minister Jaime Yoshiyama's negotiations in New York to sell Peruvian state-owned companies. The economists and congressmen ask that the process be "clear and open and that the best sale conditions for the country be sought" because in a de facto regime such as Fujimori's this sort of transaction can hardly be controlled or supervised. The item adds that some of those interviewed—such as Socialist Party Deputy Manuel Dammert, Popular Action Senators Sandro Mariategui and Manuel Moreyra Loredo, and economists Santiago Roca and Jorge Chavez Alvarez, former Central Bank of Reserves president—harshly criticized Ministers Bolona and Yoshiyama for offering the Peruvian state-owned companies in New York at very low prices. The item continues by reporting that the congressmen and economists support the need to privatize these companies but believe "they cannot be sold for just any price," particularly now that the exchange rate is so unfavorable.

Venezuela

Defense Minister Blames Politicians for Crisis

PA0706185492 Madrid EFE in Spanish 1749 GMT 7 Jun 92

[Text] Caracas, 7 Jun (EFE)—Defense Minister General Fernando Ochoa Antich has accused politicians of being responsible for the crisis in the country and the failed coup attempt on 4 February, the daily EL NACIONAL stated in its 7 June edition.

On 6 June Ochoa attended a private meeting with approximately 500 Armed Forces officers, both active duty and retired. The group spent four hours discussing the country's political situation.

According to EL NACIONAL, Ochoa acknowledged that the "political leaders lost all credibility and moral authority" and noted that they are "undoubtedly" responsible for the crisis rocking the country.

Commenting on the failed coup attempt to topple President Carlos Andres Perez, the defense minister said that "the fundamental reason" for the military uprising was that "those young servicemen were not satisfied with the course the country was taking."

Ochoa added that bad leadership on the part of the politicians can explain but not justify the rebels' actions, "because they attacked the unity of the Armed Forces and their ideas are alien to our traditions."

The ranking officer warned again that if political leaders do not make the "profound changes" demanded by the people in a climate of peace, "the changes will take place amid a war."

"I am concerned to see time being wasted and a political leadership that is unable to reach a national agreement. That is why I believe the specter of violence is hovering closely over us, and that is very serious," Ochoa said.

Although some news media indicate Ochoa's term as defense minister will be extended, he said he will not be staying long in that post. He added that he feels proud and satisfied with the work done.

Ochoa is to retire on 5 July, and by tradition he must step down as minister. The newspaper EL GLOBO, however, reported that Perez will reconfirm him in the post.

Valencia Reported Calm Following Student Riots

PA0506202092 Caracas Venezolana de Television Network in Spanish 0000 GMT 5 Jun 92

[Text] The city of Valencia was the site of student protests on 5 June. At this time, however, all is calm. It was learned that students carried out acts of violence, which took place in various parts of the city, to protest the death of several students who have died in violent demonstrations throughout the country. Government security forces have made several arrests because of the presence of masked persons in the student riots.

[Begin recording] [Gerardo Ramirez, Federation of University Centers of Caracas president] We came out on 4 June, after holding assemblies at several schools, to protest the wave of repression that has killed two people and wounded hundreds more. Many are under arrest throughout the country.

We have come to the 10th District Attorney's office to protest peacefully and to request that the attorney general grant the national student leadership an interview. The purpose of the interview is to report the flagrant violations of the Constitution and the law and—in light of the death of the two students—even the right to live.

[Government Secretary General Humberto Seijas] The public forces have had to intervene, which we have tried to do with restraint, because the demonstrators have positioned themselves in the historical center of the city. We have also been handling the matter with restraint and seriousness. As we speak, the city is calm. A few businesses were affected because the students broke several windows with rocks. At this time, the city is quiet and the public forces are making their best efforts to maintain order. [end recording]

Caracas Governor Comments on Student Unrest

PA0506202192 Caracas Venezolana de Television Network in Spanish 1600 GMT 5 Jun 92

[Text] Caracas Federal District Governor Antonio Ledezma met this morning with the rector of the Venezuelan Central University to tell him, once more, that the government will not continue to tolerate the actions of a group of ill-adapted individuals who continue to act from the university without any control. Ledezma said that when he was questioned by reporters this morning at the Miraflores Palace about the student disturbances that have been staged on the outskirts of the Venezuelan Central University in the past few days. Governor Ledezma said:

[Being Ledezma recording] There is no doubt there are groups interested in creating street disturbances. Such groups are influenced by satanic motives because.... [pause] What is more, they are not content with taking shots at the police. They are also shooting at passers by. Unfortunately, that occurred on the afternoon of 4 June on the outskirts of the Venezuelan Central University. Even more serious is the fact that they are also shooting at the students. Many of the students were wounded by reckless shots by individuals who have infiltrated the student institutions. [end recording]

Station Commentary Calls For End to Violence

PA0406210892 Caracas Venezolana de Television Network in Spanish 1600 GMT 4 June 92

[Station commentary]

[Text] The news services of Venezolana de Television call upon the Venezuelan people to reflect upon and understand the historical moment Venezuela is experiencing. The public is well aware that violence engenders violence. No problems can be solved with violence, because the communication gap widens between the parties involved. The changes being made during the country's transitional period have not been accepted by everyone. Nevertheless, protest demonstrations against the measures must include a desire for dialogue, negotiation, and agreement and be directed at reaching a balance. Over the last few days, the country has been subjected to protest demonstrations. Even though the democratic system guarantees the people's right to express their opinion, they must do so peacefully.

There was a student demonstration slated for 3 June, but because of the actions of professional vandals, it did not take place. The vandals managed to disrupt the peaceful protest and turn the Central University of Venezuela [UCV] grounds into their operations center. No one was able to stop them. People wearing masks occupied UCV installations and began to make gasoline bombs as the first steps in their destabilization work. They then hurled the bombs at people on the surrounding roads and highways. Bombs, stones, and heavy objects were their best weapons. Understanding and dialogue were nonexistent at a time when the only order was to disrupt.

As we said before, protest demonstrations are understandably a means of showing our disagreement with a given situation. However, must we harm other people who have nothing to do with the problem? Can such actions be justified? Is it fair for innocent people to be threatened with losing their personal property and even their lives just because troublemakers, who hide their faces behind masks, lack the courage to present their ideas?

Our young must reflect on this and not allow those misfits to use them. In the long run, the only losers are the students, the workers, and those who have something to contribute to the country; not the professional agitators. These people manage to penetrate the protest groups and then disappear like magic, leaving sorrow in their wake as students, policemen, and innocent people are injured and homes are torn by death.

The time has come to reflect, to verify if we are on the right road. The nation is not built that way. There are thousands of ways to protest. None of them need include violence.

DISIP Claims Civilians Involved in Coup

PA0706150892 Madrid EFE in Spanish 1718 GMT 4 Jun 92

[Text] Caracas, 4 Jun (EFE)—According to a report read on a local television station, the Directorate of Intelligence and Prevention Services, DISIP, has implicated the group of Notables, of which writer Arturo Uslar Pietri is a member, and the Patriotic Front, which is formed by academicians, in the failed February coup attempt. The document, classified as "top secret," states that the DISIP has implicated the following groups in the conspiracy: —the Bolivarian Movement, the group that carried out the 4 February coup attempt; —the Third Path, an ecologist movement headed by former guerrilla Douglas Bravo, who is currently in jail; —the Maoist party Red Flag; —sectors of the Communist Party of Venezuela; —the Radical Cause party; —and the Socialist League.

A report read on the night of 3 June on a local television station stressed that the goal of those organizations was to "organize the military uprising, take over the government, and create an emergency government based on civilian-military principles."

As proof of the report's allegations, the DISIP states that at the time of Douglas Bravo's arrest on 27 May, documents proposing the creation of an emergency government were seized. According to the documents, the emergency government's political and administrative leadership would be presented to a constituent assembly for approval. The alleged plan also called for the creation of regional government councils to replace the governors and mayors and for the transformation of the Judiciary

Council into a public health commission [comision de salud publica] that would oversee the proper administration of justice.

The report adds that in January 1991 Bravo met with Red Flag leaders to plan the coup d'etat, and in early February 1992 the Patriotic Front distributed leaflets throughout the country to incite an uprising. According to the DISIP, all of those activities precipitated the February uprising during which a group of young officers, headed by Colonel Hugo Chavez, attacked Miraflores Presidential Palace and attempted to overthrow the constitutional government.

In a communique dated 4 June, the Patriotic Front states that the government has launched a campaign to arrest prominent people who have demanded the resignation of President Carlos Andres Perez. That campaign is intended to "deprive the country of the right of its people to give themselves a new constitution."

The Patriotic Front is headed by poet Juan Liscano. Its general coordinator is Manuel Quijada, a former agriculture minister and diplomat. Other members of the group are historian Manuel Alfredo Rodriguez, member of the National Academy of History, and Edmundo Chirinos, former rector of the Central University of Venezuela.

The group of Notables is made up of Uslar Pietri, who was awarded the Prince of Austrias award in 1989; Jose Vicente Rangel, former presidential candidate and journalist; Ernesto Mayz Vallenilla, philosopher and founder of the Simon Bolivar University; and other prominent persons.

The Patriotic Front and the Notables have joined in demanding the resignation of President Perez. They also demand that general elections be held in December 1992.

Perez was sworn in for a 5-year term in February 1989

Amir of Kuwait Talks With Perez in Caracas

LD0506093292 Kuwait KUNA in Arabic 0810 GMT 5 Jun 92

[Excerpts] Caracas, 5 Jun (KUNA)—Official talks were held here between the amir of Kuwait, Shaykh Jabir al-Ahmad al-Sabah, and Venezuelan President Carlos Andres Perez. The discussions were attended by delegations from both countries.

The talks included ways to strengthen bilateral relations in all fields, oil in particular. [passage omitted]

Leaving for Caracas

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[Text] His Highness, the amir of the country, Shaykh Jabir al-Ahmad al-Jabir al-Sabah, will leave Caracas today, Sunday [7 June], at the end of his visit to Venezuela and head for Honduras. That will be the third leg of his highness's current tour of a number of Latin American countries.

During his visit, His Highness had talks with His Excellency Venezuelan President Carlos Andres Perez, which dealt with the means for consolidating cooperation between the two friendly countries, particularly regarding oil.

* Caldera on CAP, Military, Colombian Relations

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[Article by Elvia Gomez]
by the National Executive "to go at it again" and apply the so-called Betancourt doctrine to break relations with the Peruvian government was seen by ex-President Rafael Caldera as "an error and a hasty act".

"I think that it is an error, an impulsive action by President Perez that was not sufficiently thought out."

He agreed with the "democratic opinion of America" that the position taken by the Peruvian leader, Alberto Fujimori, is an illegal and unconstitutional act. At the same time he was concerned but not surprised by the popular support that the self-inflicted coup received. "It does not seem to me so unusual because, unfortunately, there has been popular support for de facto coups on other occasions and the population has suffered the consequences over the long run", he explained.

"Breaking relations with Peru is a hasty application of the Betancourt doctrine, which I recognize has a basis in principle, but whose effect is counterproductive. For the Betancourt doctrine to be effective, it has to be adopted by a community of nations that proposes to isolate the country where the constitutional order has been disturbed, but not that a single country sits in judgment because in the end, that country itself will be the one that is punished. When I arrived at the government, Venezuela had no relations with Ecuador, Peru, Argentina, Brazil, and other countries where constitutional life had been suspended. By applying the Betancourt doctrine we were isolated from those countries. I saw that the situation could not continue; that is why I think that it is a mistake, an impulsive act by President Perez."

If foreign policy were to show the need for breaking diplomatic relations, Rafael Caldera believes that first of all the other countries of the Latin American continent should be consulted, and having done that, the situation would be different because the return of legality and democracy in Peru would be a joint undertaking.

Possibility of CAP's Resignation Diminishes

Accepting an invitation from the directors of the Institute of Officers in Retired Status of the National Armed Forces, ex-President Caldera gave an informative talk

about the scope and objectives of the constitutional reform, which is presently being studied by Congress.

His initial presentation was broad and expositive, and an hour and a half later it was completed by a series of questions.

Caldera insisted on pointing out that the entire country demands profound and rapid change, and one of the mechanisms that permits this is constitutional reform; otherwise, the danger of trying to achieve change through violence would increase. In reply to a question from the audience, Caldera declared that there are only two paths to effect change: constitutional reform or a coup d'etat, and he vehemently argued that the public authorities cannot be accused of illegitimacy because this would justify the recent military insurrection as having rebelled against something illegitimate.

Equally important and necessary—in his judgment—is the resignation of President Carlos Andres Perez [CAP], but he observed there seems to be a certain tendency in the population toward stability that "makes the hypothesis of resignation more remote." He also described as "inconsistent" the arguments used by CAP to disregard requests for his resignation, while the domineering attitude would tend to encourage popular discontent.

The ex-president said that his insistence that a transitional arrangement be included in constitutional reform, which would shorten the terms of present office holders, has nothing to do with his rise in public opinion polls, calling it "a mean spirited accusation." On the contrary, his proposal forms part of the solution to the crisis, together with approval for its immediate application of the referendum on revocation of the mandate.

He was again in disagreement on the Constituent Assembly because this mechanism would take a long time. He emphasized that its convocation must not be the product of a group of persons who "fell in love" with the idea, but that it should obey the majority decision of the people. He especially defended the method being used to create the new Magna Carta, which is one of the reform. He explained to the retired officers that even if the report contains some 80 articles, almost half relate to the inclusion of amendments already in force that must be transferred to the definitive text, which means that there will not be too many subjects submitted for popular approval during the referendum.

He made special mention of the necessity for members of the FAN [National Armed Forces] to remain apart "from the disease of political partisanship" and he argued therefore that military promotions should be based on the aspirants' service records and not on political agreements worked out in Congress. He also said that he favored the minister of defense being an active officer because it is observable that in those countries where that portfolio is held by a civilian, the distance between the civilian and military sectors is pronounced.

The exaggerated rotation in the positions of ministers and commanding generals of the armed services, according to Caldera, should be subject to change. The present mechanism does not allow incumbents to make any visible accomplishments in such a short term. He declared that those who give themselves airs as "military experts" are, in reality, ignorant of the ideology of those who spend 34 years in the service of the military institution, and that is the cause of some people's insistence to make the FAN partisan. On the contrary, what is needed is to recuperate the nonpartisan spirit of the military sector and place it "above the pettiness".

Although he did not criticize the uninominal electoral system, which has popular roots, he did warn that access by minorities to Congress must be allowed to be closed because "the path to the hills would be open" as the only path to dissidence "and the pacification of the country would be threatened".

Finally, Rafael Caldera declared that he is ready to combat the anti-Colombian phobia "that leads nowhere" and that has been exacerbated as a result of the attempted coup and the boundary negotiations. "No one has defended Venezuelan sovereignty as much as I." But for him, attempts to divide two countries with so much in common are unjustified. He regretted that while everyone remembers that Perez Jimenez defended the Island of Los Monjes, nobody remembers that it was he who unfurled the national banner in the zone, together with representatives of the public authorities, which represented "the most bitter day" of the administration of President Pastrana Borrero, as the Colombian leader himself later admitted.